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CENTENNIAL DISCOURSE.
1876

Harvard College Library

FROM THE

BRIGHT LEGACY

One half the income from this Legacy, which was received in 1880 under the will of

JONATHAN BROWN BRIGHT

of Waltham, Massachusetts, is to be expended for books for the College Library. The other half of the income is devoted to scholarships in Harvard University for the benefit of descendants of

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who died at Watertown, Massachusetts, in 1686. In the absence of such descendants, other persons are eligible to the scholarships. The will requires that this announcement shall be made in every book added to the Library under its provisions.

1776.

Cover

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY

VENANGO COUNTY.

1876.

CENTENNIAL DISCOURSE:

A SKETCH

OF THE

HISTORY OF

VENANGO COUNTY,

PENNSYLVANIA.

DELIVERED AT FRANKLIN, PA., JULY 4th, 1876,

By S. J. M. Eaton, D. D.

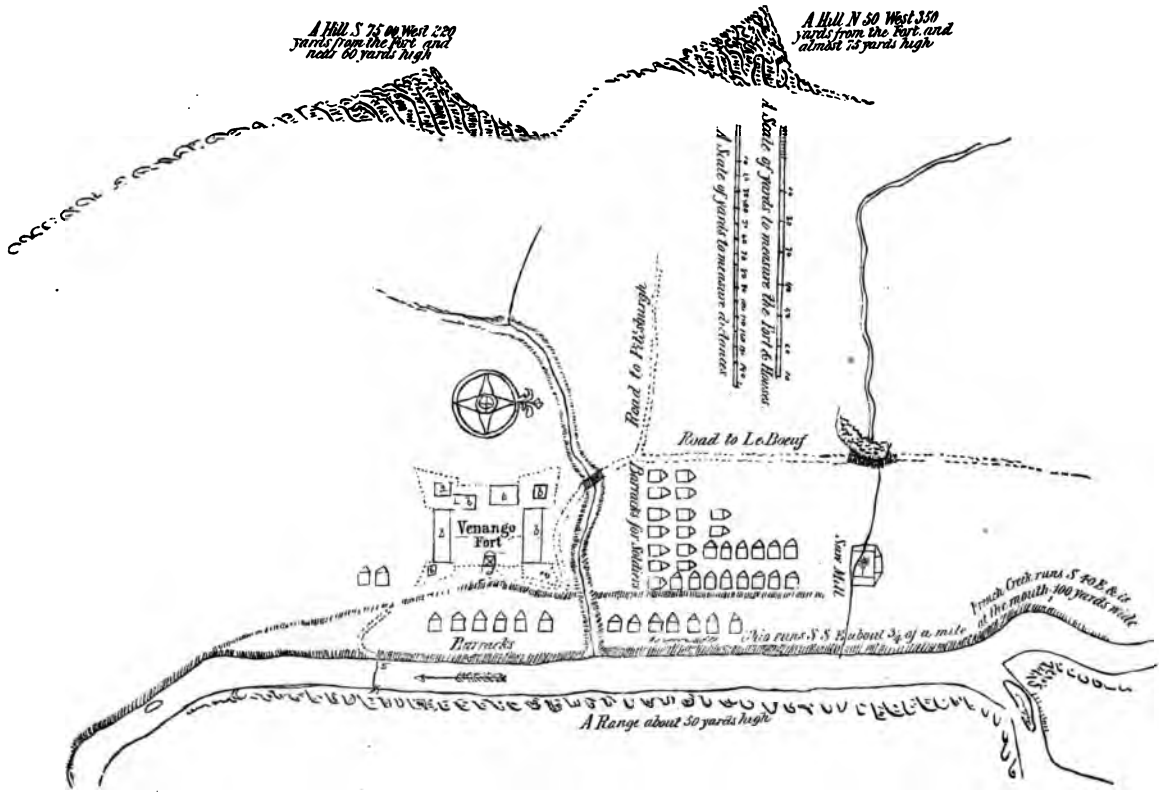
Illustrated by a Map of the Old French Fort and its Surroundings.

FRANKLIN, PA.:
Venango Spectator Job Office.
1876.

1863, Sept. 12.
Knight Fund.

ERRATUM.

Miss BETSY BROADFOOT died May 11, 1857, and not in 1864, as printed on page 34.


A Hill S 75 deg West 220 yards from the Fort and near 60 yards high
A Hill N 50 West 350 yards from the Fort and almost 75 yards high
A Scale of yards to measure the Fort & Houses
A Scale of yards to measure distances
Road to Pittsburgh
Road to Le Boeuf
Venango Fort
Barracks for soldiers
Saw Mill
French Creek runs S 40 E & is at the mouth 100 yards wide
Oil runs S S E about 3/4 of a mile
Barracks
A Range about 50 yards high

EXPLANATION

OF THE MAP ON THE OPPOSITE PAGE.

a.—Magazine, three feet thick of earth.

b.—Barracks, two stories high, with stone chimneys.

c.—Door to a large cellar.

d.—The gate.

e.—Rising ground, that the Fort stands on, fifteen feet higher than the bank of the river.

f.—Bank of the river, twelve feet high.

g.—The landing.

h.—A good fording, 200 yards across the river.

i.—Bridge across a hollow.

k.—Hollow fifteen feet deep and sixty feet broad, with a small stream of water.

N. B.—Venango Fort is situated on a rising piece of ground on a rich bottom, abounding with clover, sixty yards west of the Ohio. The north and south Polygon, is forty-five yards; and the east and west Polygon thirty-seven yards. The Bastions are built of saplings eight inches thick, and thirteen feet in length, set stockade fashion. Part of the Curtains are of hewn timber, laid lengthways upon one another which also makes one side of the barracks.

NOTE.—The above is the exact description of the French Fort as given on the margin of the ancient map. The English Fort was located about fifty feet north of the French saw-mill.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF

VENANGO COUNTY,

PENNSYLVANIA.

VENANGO COUNTY, although organized at a later period than many of her sisters, has yet a history that is full of thrilling interest. In many of its features it borders on the romantic. The beginning of the century that is just closing found this region covered with its primeval forest. The Indian had his home here, and what little of civilization had been seen in earlier days under the French rule had vanished.

But we will find it interesting to go back a few years and notice some of the incidents connected with the movements of the French in their determination to hold possession of the Valley of the Mississippi. This will take us back to the year 1749. The French based their claims on the original discoveries of MARQUETTE and LA SALLE, together with their construction of the treaties of Ryswick, Utrecht and Aix la Chapelle. As early as the beginning of the eighteenth century, BANCROFT tells us that, "Not a fountain bubbled on the west of the Allegheny, but was claimed as belonging to the French Empire." Later they seem to have claimed all west of the Alleghenny Mountains, In pursuance of this claim, in the year 1749. GALLISONIERE, Governor of Canada, sent CELERON to bury leaden plates at different points, along the line from Lake Erie to the Mississippi, as evidences of this claim. One of these plates was buried at this place, near the mouth of French creek. It bore an inscription in the French language. stating that they had "Buried this plate at the confluence of the To-ra-da-koin. this 20th July near the river Ohio, othwise Beautiful River, as a monument of renewal of possession."

This plate was not permitted to remain long in its little bed, as it was stolen by the Indians and taken to the State of New York, that "the devilish writing," as they called it, might be interpreted to them.

It was then resolved to erect a line of Forts extending from Lake Erie to the lower Ohio. Fort Presque Isle was builded at Erie, Le Bœuf at Waterford, and Machault at this place. The two former were completed in 1753, the latter was commenced in the fall of that year and completed early in 1754. The Indians seem at first to have been unwilling to have a Fort erected here. To overcome their scruples a Frenchman by the name of JONCAIRE was sent to propitiate them. We find his name mentioned frequently in connection with this place. He was a wily, plausible and shrewd man, and would have made a good politician at the present day. He had been adopted by the Indians, won their confidence, and under the plea that the new building was to be a trading house for their convenience, was permitted to commence operations.

Undoubtedly the first white man who located in Venango County was JOHN FRAZIER, a Scotchman. He was a gunsmith and trader. In the year 1753, EDWARD SHIPPEN, of Lancaster, in writing to Governor JAMES HAMILTON, says of him and this place: "Weningo is the name of an Indian town on Ohio, where Mr. FRAZIER has had a gunsmith shop for many years. It is situate about eighty miles up the said river beyond Logstown."

When JONCAIRE came to commence the erection of the Fort here, he drove FRAZIER out of his house and took possession. It was at this house that GEORGE WASHINGTON had the famous interview with JONCAIRE in December, 1753. There is no evidence that the Fort here was occupied at the time of WASHINGTON'S visit, for he speaks of finding the French colors raised over FRAZIER'S house. We would like much to know now just where that was located, but its site is forgotten forever.

At that interview the Frenchman was thoroughly outgeneraled by the young American. Whisky was produced, with the intention of getting the Indians and the American youth under its influence. But the results were that while the Indians became drunken, WASHINGTON remained perfectly sober, and picked the brains of the half-drunken Frenchman of all their secrets. He found out the plans of the French without exciting the suspicions of the soldiers. The service commenced by GEORGE WASHINGTON in this region, at twenty-one years of age, was the beginning of his culture for the events of the Revolutionary War.

The Fort here seems to have been completed in April, 1754, under the superintendence of Captain JONCAIRE. It was not an elaborate work, but suited to the circumstances of the case. It was called Machault, after a celebrated French financier and politician. The name is not a familiar one here, but in every instance in which the Fort is spoken of by the French authorities, either here or in Canada,

it is called Machault. By the English it was usually called the French Fort at Venango. Although grave doubts existed until recently as to its exact location, yet facts have been brought to light recently, that fix the site beyond all controversy. Its exact location was on the bank of the Allegheny, about sixty rods south of the mouth of French creek. Elk street runs directly through it, and Sixth street nearly touches it on the south.

An ancient document describes it in this wise: "It is situated on a rising piece of ground, in a rich bottom abounding with clover, sixty yards west of the Ohio. The north and south polygon is forty-five yards, and the east and west polygon thirty-seven yards, in perimeter. The bastions are built of saplings eight inches thick and thirteen feet high, set stockade fashion. Parts of the curtains are of hewn timber, laid lengthwise upon one another, which also makes one side of the barracks." Inside the Fort were six ranges of barracks, two stories high, with stone chimneys. Outside were also long ranges of barracks for soldiers. The magazine within was cased with earth to the depth of three feet. On the little stream just below eighth street, where the English Fort was afterwards built, was a saw-mill, the machinery of which had been brought from Canada, if not from France.

The Fort was one hundred and five feet in length and seventy-five feet in breadth, exclusive of the bastions.

To this description all allusions in the French records correspond. Captain POUCHOT, Chief Engineer of the forces in Canada, says in a letter: "We have a small mean Fort on the Ohio." A French prisoner, STEPHEN CHAUVIGNERIE, taken in Eastern Pennsylvania, says: "Fort Machault is a wooden Fort filled up with earth," and further states that they had "six swivel-guns, or wall pieces," and that the whole ground embraced about two acres.

At this point there were sometimes as many as one thousand men. A large force had assembled here in July, 1759, to make an attack on Fort Pitt, to recover what they had lost in Fort Du Quesne, when intelligence came that Fort Niagara was beseiged, and orders to evacuate and hasten thither to the rescue. The creek was too low to convey their effects by boat, and there was no transportation by land, beyond personal baggage. So, presents were distributed with a lavish hand to the Indians. Grim warriors were seen strutting about in laced coats and hats, without other clothing, and dusky maidens were rich with red blankets, worn shawlwise, and gaudy with immense strings of beads. The property was collected into the Fort, set on fire, and all that would burn was reduced to ashes.—Thus, after a possession here of five and a half years, the French claim was abandoned forever.

The authority on which this description and location of Fort Machault is based, is a map of the Fort and adjacent territory, recently brought to our knowledge. It was found amongst the papers of the SHIPPEN family, brought to western Pennsylvania in 1825. It is a well-known fact that EDWARD SHIPPEN, of Lancaster, grand-father of Judge SHIPPEN, formerly of this Judicial District, was, during the French occupation here, the confidential agent of Governor JAMES HAMILTON, and intimately connected with matters pertaining to the struggle here. In August, 1753, we find him forwarding a letter from JOHN FRAZIER, the pioneer trader here, to Governor HAMILTON, in which occur these words: "Here is enclosed the draught of the Fort the French built the other side of Sugar creek, not far from Weningo, where they have eight cannon."

Now, although this was probably not the Fort at this place, yet it shows that Mr. SHIPPEN was connected with matters relating to Forts and military affairs here, and the probability is that through him the plan of Fort Machault was obtained, that has come down to our day.

We have not only an exact drawing of the ground plan and description of the Fort, but the distances and bearings of the adjacent hills. These hills are just above the stone quarry, near the Gas Works. Attached to the hills are the following note: "A hill S. 75° W., two hundred and twenty yards from the Fort, near sixty yards high. A hill N. 50° West, three hundred and forty yards from the Fort, about seventy-five yards high." To test the matter a compass has been set at the point described as the site of the Fort, and found to correspond very nearly to the bearings given in the annotations. The original plan is in the possession of WILLIAM REYNOLDS, Esq., of Meadville, Pennsylvania,

Nothing can exceed the energy and perseverance with which this French claim was pushed. They labored under great difficulties. All their supplies, armament and material of war, were brought from Canada. The route was by boat to Erie; then carried across the country to Waterford, fifteen miles; then floated down French creek to this place. They had the friendship of the Indians, but these unscrupulous creatures were constantly levying blackmail upon them. The last time the Fort was reinforced here, by men and provisions, it was from Kaskaskia, Illinois, by the Mississippi, Ohio and Wabash rivers, then across to Lake Erie and so by Fort Le Bœuf and French creek. This was only a few days before the final evacuation.

The effort was a bold one, and the energy commensurate to it, but Providence had some better things in store for this country, and so the vision faded, and the lilies of France withered to bloom no more south of the Lakes and the St. Lawrence.

A claim has been set up for another French Fort on the opposite side of French creek at the mouth. Such a Fort is said to be marked on an old map in Quebec. Also, in one of the French despatches, Machault is said to be built "one-half on the Ohio and one-half on the Les Bœufs." But there is a mistake in the matter. No French writer ever speaks of more than one Fort. Nor do the English.— The earliest settlers came here less than thirty years after the abandonment of the country by the French, and they found not a trace of any military works on the Point. The expression, half on the Ohio and half on Les Bœufs, probably means that the Fort was designed to cover both streams.

A relic of the French Fort was found about forty years ago, in the shape of a four-pounder cannon. It was dug from the bank in the neighborhood of the Fort. The trunnions had been knocked off, the gun spiked and laid away to its long sleep. No doubt other similar guns are buried in the neighborhood, as the French were unable in their haste to remove them. This gun was afterwards repaired and used for patriotic purposes, until on one occasion in excessive patriotism it was loaded too heavily, and was blown to pieces.

The next chapter finds us under English rule. In 1760, a new and much more substantial Fort was erected by the English Government. The site chosen was just below the mouth of French creek, at the junction of Elk and Eighth streets. It was composed of heavy, substantial earthworks. According to the plan of the town in the office of the Surveyor General, it had bastions at the corners and also in the middle of the curtains. The central work was eighty-eight feet square. Outside of this was a ditch twenty-four feet wide, and outside of this the embankment.

We cannot tell how extensively this Fort was garrisoned. We know but this: In the year 1763, it was commanded by Lieutenant GORDEN. At this time PONTIAC, that grand old Sachem, was organizing his forces for a simultaneous attack upon every Fort from Detroit to Pittsburgh. The attack was made, and every Fort but three fell into the hands of the enemy. Forts Presque Isle and Le Bœuf were taken by assault, and Fort Venango, as the English work was called, by stratagem. The Indians were playing ball in the neighborhood, and occasionally knocked the ball into the enclosure. Obtaining leave to go in for the ball, they finally made a rush through the gate, massacred the garrison, and tortured Lieutenant GORDEN over a slow fire until relieved by death. They then set the Fort on fire.

The sites of both these Forts give abundant evidence of their destruction by fire. Melted glass, bits of burned iron and burned stones, were found at both places by the early settlers. On the site

of the French Fort large numbers of singularly formed scalping knives were found that had passed through the fire. Coarse glass beads were numerous that had been designed to trade to the Indians. A number of grape-vines of a peculiar kind were found in the neighborhood. These, no doubt, had been brought from France.

Underneath the earthworks of the English Fort was recently found an English half-penny of the date of 1749. There was also found in the neighborhood a medal struck to commemorate the victory of Admiral VERNON at Portobello.

The last vestige of both these Forts has passed away. Wall and fortress and buttress and bastion have been leveled down. The spirit of the present has crushed out the past.

The third chapter brings us under the United States rule. Independence has been achieved. We are within the century whose exploits we are celebrating.

In the Spring of 1787, a company of United States soldiers, under Captain HART, was sent up from Pittsburgh to erect a Fort for the protection of possible settlers. The site was a novel one. It was on the south bank of French creek, just above the upper bridge. Otter street runs through it. It was not a very formidable work. It was about one hundred feet square, with bastions at the angles, and surrounded by a ditch, outside of which was a line of pickets, or pine logs, some sixteen feet in hight. In this Fort a garrison of about one hundred men was kept until 1796, when it was abandoned for a new site. This was on the creek bottom, a little above the mouth. This new work was a strong wooden building, a story and a half high, and thirty by thirty-six feet square. It was surrounded by a line of pine pickets, but had no arrangement for cannon. The Fort was garrisoned by soldiers until about 1799, when they were withdrawn and the building used in the interests of peace. These United States works were known, the first as Fort Franklin, the latter as "the Old Garrison." The last traces of them have now passed away.

In 1795, an act was passed by the Legislature to lay out a town at the mouth of French creek, on land that had been reserved by the State. The provisions of this act were carried out by General WILLIAM IRVINE and ANDREW ELLICOTT, the same season. The plan of the town we have now before us. With its future history, and that of the county, we are now to speak.

The County of Venango was erected by act of Assembly, March 12, 1800, though not organized for Judicial purposes until April 1, 1805. That portion of its territory east of the river was taken from Lycoming county; that on the west from Allegheny county. In

1839 its proportions were curtailed by the formation of Clarion county, and in 1866 by setting off a portion of its territory to Forest.

The ancient name of the river now called Allegheny, was Ohio, or, as the French called it, "La Belle Riviere," Beautiful River.—French creek, in COFFEN'S statement, is called "Bœuffs." On the leaden plate buried by CELERON, it is called Toradakoin. The French invariably called it the River Aux Bœufs. In one of the French despatches it is said that it was called by the English Venango River. At the time of WASHINGTON'S visit here, he re-christened it French creek, by which name it has been known ever since.

As to the name of the Indian town anciently located here, COFFEN called it Ganagarahhare. In Mr. SHIPPEN'S letter to Governor HAMILTON, it is called Weningo. It was then said to be an old town. In later years it was spelled Wenango, then Vinango, and still later Venango. The latter has become the permanent way of spelling it. As there were different tribes of Indians in this locality, this may have given occasion to different names, meaning the same thing, as in the case of the names given to the river by the French and Indians. There is an old tradition that the name Venango was derived from a vulgar figure carved on a tree near the banks of the stream; but the old name of the village, Weningo, being much older than this alleged tradition, the presumption is fair that Weningo was the root from which the present Venango sprang. The name has been so popular that it has been reduplicated in two of the neighboring counties.

The first settlement of the County was attended with difficulty. The Indians were for many years quite hostile, regarding the white settlers as innovators of their natural rights. The first settlement was made at Franklin. GEORGE POWERS came in 1790, and began as an Indian trader. A few others followed him, but with great caution. About this time the women and children were sent down from Meadville for safety.

In 1794, ALEXANDER MCDOWELL came out as a Deputy Surveyor, but found the Indians quite hostile. They had that year attacked a boat on the river and killed two men. Two men had also been killed about twenty miles south of Franklin. The same summer, CORNPLANTER notified all surveyors to leave the woods, as after the 13th of September they might expect to be attacked. The next year, the same alarm prevailed. Some were seeking refuge in the Fort.—

There is every reason for supposing that a plan was on foot, on the part of the Indians in 1794, for the total destruction of the white settlers in this county. But there was no PONTIAC to manage affairs for them. CORNPLANTER was the principal man. But he hesitated to carry out the plan, if he was not really opposed to it. He had a

warm feeling for the white man, but his people "had blood in their eyes." They were smarting under real or imaginary difficulties, and were determined to act on the offensive.

We have a deposition of DANIEL RANSOM, dated June 11, 1794: "This deponent further saith, that the STANDING STONE, a Chief of the Onondago's, also informed him at Fort Franklin, that he thought the times would soon be bad, and pressed him very much to leave Fort Franklin, and assisted him in packing up his goods, etc.; that from what he had seen and heard from other Indians, he has every reason to believe the account to be true; that seven white men came down the Allegheny a few days ago to Fort Franklin, who informed him that the Indians appeared very surly, and had not planted any corn on the river, at their towns."

Captain DENNY, who was in command at Fort Franklin at the same date, had similar forebodings. He says: "Upon summing up the whole, we have not a shadow of doubt but that a plan was formed to destroy all the posts and settlements in this quarter."

On June 29th, Mr. ELLICOTT writes in regard to the Fort here: "On my arrival, the place seemed so defenceless, that, with the concurrence of Captain DENNY, and the officer commanding at the Fort, we remained there some time, and employed the troops in rendering it more tenable. It may now be considered as defensible, provided the number of men is increased. The garrison, at present, consists of twenty-five men, one-half of whom are unfit for duty, and it is my opinion that double that number would not be more than sufficient, considering the importance of the safety of the settlement on French creek."

But it is strongly probable that the danger menacing the settlement arose rather from outside Indians than from those under the immediate command of CORNPLANTER. The more northern tribes were still in no small degree under the influence of the French, who, although giving up the idea of conquest, were not averse to keeping up an irritated feeling amongst the Indians, in revenge for the disappointment of the past.

These dangers and annoyances gradually gave way, and there was the promise of peace and tranquillity in the new settlement.

After the coming of General IRVINE and Mr. ELLICOTT with a military escort of fifty men, tranquillity was restored. CORNPLANTER was pacified with the promise of having his lands surveyed at once. This being done he became the fast friend of Colonel McDOWELL and Colonel DALE, and so continued during their lives.

CORNPLANTER always exerted a strong influence upon the minds of the Indians. Although he was in favor of the French during their temporary possession, yet, after the Revolution, he was the

firm friend of the United States, and at the settlement here wished but his rights. He was a just man, and had but to see the right in order to pursue it.

Scrubgrass township was one of the first points in the county settled outside of Franklin. THOMAS MCKEE came in 1796. About the same time were THOMAS BAIRD and Major GHOST, ROBERT CALVERT and ROBERT RIDDLE. The next year JAMES CRAIG and Mrs. ABIGAIL COULTER came. The latter was the mother of Rev. JOHN COULTER, and grandmother of Rev. J. R. COULTER, now of the same township. JOHN WITHERUP, the first Sheriff, came in 1799.—The first mill was built that year. In 1800, Colonel CAMPBELL'S mills were built. The same year the first sermon was delivered in the county. It was by Rev. WILLIAM MOORHEAD, at the house of Mrs. COULTER, and within forty rods of the present Scrubgrass church. In 1802, the first church built in the county was erected.—It was of round logs, with earthen floor and split logs for seats.—This was in Scrubgrass. It was a Presbyterian church. In 1805 the first Methodist church was built; this was in the same township.

Among the other early settlers were MICHAEL MULLEN and JAMES SCOTT, in 1796; JAMES LESLIE, SAMUEL WEST, WILLIAM SLOAN, JOSEPH REDICK, JAMES MCDOWELL, WILLIAM SHANNON, JOHN CULBERTSON, JOHN FRITZ and DANIEL SAY, came in 1798.

In 1812, DAVID PHIPPS built mills at Kennerdell. In 1825, the first furnace was built in the county by JOHN ANDERSON, in this township. The PHIPPS'S were amongst the early settlers.

Richland and Rockland, then a part of Frenchcreek, were settled early in this century. In Richland, the first settlers were the MCCASLINS, RITCHIES, PORTERS, STEUARTS, MCCLATCHIES, RUSSELLS, CARNES, PLATTS, DONALDSONS, BELLS, and NICKLES. In Rockland were the SHANNONS, JOLLEYS, WATTS, CAMPBELLS, MCDOWELLS, SMITHS, DAVIDSONS, and MAITLANDS.

Irwin township was settled a few years later. The first citizens were the ROSS'S, BAKERS, DAVIDSONS, BEACHES, HENDERSONS, AYRES'S, MARTINS, and WANDERS.

The Valley of Oil Creek was settled from 1797 to 1802. Old CORNPLANTER, the Indian Chief, owned the first tract above the mouth of the Creek. Above him NATHANIEL CARY settled in 1800. Next above him was HAMILTON MCCLINTOCK, who came in 1797.—A part of this farm afterwards belonged to SAMUEL HAYS, who erected a saw-mill on it. Next above was JOHN MCCLINTOCK, where Rouseville now stands. AMBROSE RYND was the next above. He came in 1800. Next above was FRANCIS BUCHANAN, then JAMES STORY and his son ROBERT. They all came in 1800. Next was FRANCIS MCCLINTOCK, who came in 1797. On this farm Petroleum Cen-

tre was afterwards located. All these farms will be recognized as connected with the oil business in modern times. Above McCLINTOCKS' was SAMUEL GREGG, who came in 1800. His farm is the present site of Pioneer. Above this ANDREW MILLER and his son JAMES settled. Above him were ANDREW FLEMING and his brothers, DANIEL and EDWARD. They came in 1802. The same year ARCHIE HAMILTON and BARNEY GRIFFIN came to make their homes and seek their fortunes.

The first settlement in Cherrytree township was begun in 1797. It was by WILLIAM REYNOLDS and his son JOHN, afterwards of Meadville. It was on the present site of the village of Cherrytree. The following year JAMES TUTHLIL and JOHN STRAWBRIDGE settled in the same neighborhood. In 1800 JOHN IRWIN, who afterwards became one of the first Associate Judges, and SAMUEL DALE, one of the early Surveyors and Representatives, came from Northumberland county. In 1801, SAMUEL, JAMES, and NINIAN IRWIN, brothers, settled on farms near the common settlement. SAMUEL IRWIN was the father of the the present Judge IRWIN. HENRY PRATHER, a blacksmith, had come in 1800. In 1802, the HAMILTONS, McFADDENS, GRIFFINS, ARCHERS, STEWARTS, TARRS, and others came.

Along the Valley of Sugar Creek, the settlement commenced at an early day. The land was inviting and the water good. THOMAS CARTER, ROBERT BEATTY, JOHN RODGERS, and WILLIAM COZZENS, all came in 1796. In the Valley of French Creek, EBENEZER ROBERTS settled what is now the Poor House Farm, in the year 1796.—Farther up the Creek the DUFFIELDS had their early home about the same time. In 1793 or 4, BRICE GILMORE came; JOHN GORDON in 1796, near Utica; John GILMORE in 1798; in 1794 SAMUEL and ADAM COOPER; in 1798 JOHN MARTIN; in 1799 THOMAS RUSSELL; following these were JOHNSTON and CUTCHALL; JAMES ADAMS was also one of the early settlers.

On the Franklin and Meadville road, at the Seven Mile Spring, CLEMONS settled in 1797. In the region of Waterloo, GIBSON was the first settler. He sold to JEWELL, and he to AARON McKISSICK, who laid out the village of Waterloo, in 1839. In the same region the TEMPLES were early settlers.

At the mouth of Sandy Creek, SAMUEL POLICY had settled as early as 1798. Further up, VAN SICKLE had settled at Raymilton. PATTERSON came in 1795.

In what is now Oakland Township, LAWRENCE DEMPSEY settled in 1798 ; ISAAC WALLS came in 1804.

The McCALMONTS came to the county in 1803. The oldest son, ROBERT, popularly known as "Uncle ROBERT," had preceded the family, coming in the fall of 1802. The family settled in Sugar-

creek township, about five miles from Franklin, on the Dempseytown road. JACOB WHITMAN and JOHN LUPHER had settled there before them. ROBERT MCCALMONT died November 15, 1875, in the ninety-third year of his age.

WILLIAM CONNELY, who afterwards represented the county in the Legislature and was an Associate Judge, came to the county in 1804. He died May 23, 1871, in the ninety-fourth year of his age.

In other portions of the county there were settlers reaching back as far as the beginning of the century.

In Cranberry township SAMUEL POWELL was an esteemed and influential citizen. Farther west were the HENDERSONS, SIMCOXES, MCCLARANS, WHANNS, ADAMS'S, and others. In 1803, GEORGE MCCLELLAND came to Sandy Creek. He afterwards moved to Franklin. SAMUEL PLUMER was here in 1808. PHILIP HOUSER was also one of the pioneers. After the war of 1812 quite an influx of population came from Eastern Pennsylvania.

The public buildings of the county have not been numerous.—The county was organized for Judicial purposes in 1805, but was for a time without Court House or Jail. The first Court was held in a log house on Liberty street, long afterwards occupied by Mr. DUBBS as a drug store. It was demolished in 1863. The first Court House was built in 1811. It was a stone building. Its site was on West Park, just opposite PLUMER'S Block. A new brick Court House was built in 1848, a little to the south of the present building. In 1869 the present fine structure was erected.

The Old Garrison on the bank of the Creek was used as a jail from 1805 to 1819, when the first building for this purpose was erected. It was a quaint, funny looking building and stood near the site of the present Court House. The material was stone, but not very formidable looking for a prison. On the southern end there was a yard about twenty feet square, surrounded by a stone wall perhaps twelve feet high. Here the prisoners were let out to breathe the fresh air. On circus days they could sit on the top of the wall and see the show, as the canvas was usually pitched in the neighborhood. The cells of this prison were lined with oak plank, some five inches in thickness. There was a well in the jail yard. In 1853, a new prison, with Sheriff's house in front, was erected on Elk street, fronting South Park. The prison was of stone taken from the locks of the old canal. In 1868, this prison was remodeled and made more secure.

There have been two Academy buildings. The first was built some sixty years ago; the second about 1850. The latter building is now owned and occupied by the Evangelical Church.

At the laying out of the town, lands were reserved for purposes of education. Two thousand acres had been set apart for town and school purposes. Some of these Academy lands were sold and the proceeds used for building an Academy, the benefits of which should accrue to the entire county. By this means the Academy was kept in operation for many years, and was productive of good.

But the free school system began to interfere with the prosperity of the Academy. Taxes were to be paid for school purposes, and the taxpayers naturally desired to receive the benefit of them. And just in proportion as the grade of the public schools was raised, in the same proportion did the patronage of the Academy decline.—Finally it was abandoned and passed into the hands of the Directors of the Public Schools.

The only remaining County building is the Poor House. It is situated on French Creek about two and one half miles above Franklin. It is a brick building and erected at the cost of about one hundred thousand dollars. It was finished in 1870.

The County was for five years connected with Warren, Erie, Mercer, Butler and Crawford counties, for Judicial purposes, with the seat of justice at Meadville, Judge ADDISON presiding. The first Judge appointed for this District was JESSE MOORE. He held the office until 1825, and was succeeded by HENRY SHIPPEN, until 1839. He was succeeded by N. B. ELDRED; succeeded by GAYLORD CHURCH, ALEXANDER MCCALMONT, JOSEPH BUFFINGTON, JOHN C. KNOX, J. S. MCCALMONT, GLENNI W. SCOFIELD, JAMES CAMPBELL, ISAAC G. GORDON and JOHN TRUNKEY. In 1839, JAMES THOMPSON was appointed Judge of a District Court that included Venango.—This Court was limited to five years.

The first Associate Judges of the county were JAMES E. HERRON, THOMAS MCKEE, and JOHN IRWIN. They were succeeded by RICHARD IRWIN, ROBERT MITCHELL, JAMES KINNEAR, B. A. PLUMER, ROBERT CROSS, DAVID PHIPPS, SAMUEL HAYS, J. H. SMILEY, W. W. DAVIDSON, ALEXANDER HOLEMAN, JOSHUA DAVIS, ROBERT LAMBERTON, WILLIAM CONNELY, R. S. MCCORMICK, and JAMES L. CONNELY.

The first Sheriff was JOHN WITHERUP, of Scrubgrass; succeeded by JOHN HAMILTON, ANDREW BOWMAN, ARNOLD PLUMER, ARTHUR ROBINSON, in 1828; SAMUEL HAYS, in 1832; ALEXANDER MCCALMONT, in 1833; JOHN EVANS, in 1839; J. W. SHUGART, in 1844; SAMUEL PHIPPS, in 1847, and others.

The first Prothonotary was WILLIAM MOORE. He was succeeded by ALEXANDER MCCALMONT, ANDREW BOWMAN, ARNOLD PLUMER, G. W. CONNELY, and others.

In 1857 the offices of Prothonotary and Register were divided. The first Prothonotary after the division was R. L. COCHRAN; the first Register and Recorder was Dr. N. D. SNOWDEN.

The first Court Crier was JOHN MORRISON. He had opened the first Courts in Mercer, Warren and Butler counties. He learned that wonderful speech with which the Courts are opened from Colonel DALE. He held his honors long, and died in the ninety-eighth year of his age. His portrait, painted by JOHN COXSON, is still preserved in the Court House. He was succeeded by ROBERT MCCALMONT and he by ROBERT LYTLE, the present incumbent.

The first member of Congress representing the District was JOHN GALBRAITH. He represented it in 1832–4 and 8. ARNOLD PLUMER represented it in 1836 and '40; SAMUEL HAYS from 1842 to 1844.

In the State Legislature, Colonel SAMUEL DALE was the first Representative from the county. He was elected first in 1807, and re-elected annually until 1813. SAMUEL HAYS represented it in 1816–17; and WILLIAM CONNELY in 1819–20.

ARNOLD PLUMER was at one time Marshal of the Western District. He was also State Treasurer and Canal Commissioner General SAMUEL HAYS was also Marshal of the Western District. Dr. GEORGE R. ESPY was Auditor General. JAMES ROSS SNOWDEN was first, State Treasurer, then Director of the Mint at Philadelphia, afterwards Prothonotary of the Supreme Court. JAMES THOMPSON and JOHN C. KNOX, were both elected to the bench of the Supreme Court of the State.

The public has not been slow to recognize merit in our public men. And the record of these public men has been uniformly good. It will compare favorably with the record of any set of men in any period of the country's history. And there has been the opportunity of judging. Old Venango has always had her share of the public offices, and her county seat is well entitled to be called "the nursery of great men."

The first church organized in the county was called Lower Sandy. It was a Presbyterian church and was organized in 1800, near Utica. WILLIAM WYLIE was the first pastor.

JAMES ADAMS built the first woolen mill in the county. This was at Utica. At the first settlement the women manufactured the cloth without the aid of machinery. They carded, spun and wove, colored and fulled the fabric, all within themselves. And when this was done they made the clothing, without the aid of tailors or fashion plates.

The first settlers, both men and women, made a brave record, in their struggles for life and fortune, here. And it will be well if we,

their descendants, make as good use of our advantages as they did. Their names are placed on record; and let their virtues in like manner be perpetuated.

The people who settled this county when it was a wilderness are worthy of all honor and kind remembrance. A late writer has said: "A more intelligent, virtuous and resolute class of men never settled any country than the first settlers of western Pennsylvania; and the women who shared their sacrifices were no less worthy." They came here, many of them, in poverty. They found little but hardships for very many years. They found the land covered with timber. There were for many years neither mills nor factories. With their own strong arms they must cut down the forest and fence the fields and build log cabins. Some of the first settlers lived on potatoes chiefly the first year of their coming.

An old veteran, out to the west of us, who came here about the beginning of the century, thus relates his experience: "Me and the woman came out on foot, driving one little cow, and carrying all our effects on our backs. The first year we eat potatoes and slept on good clean leaves gathered up in the woods. The first wheat I raised, I took a bushel on my back, walked to Pittsburgh, got it ground and carried back the flour." And this was no uncommon experience. Sometimes they pounded their corn in mortars cut out of stumps.

Some of our first settlers on French Creek took their wheat and corn in canoes and skiffs up to Meadville to be ground. They were obliged to live within themselves. Clothing was made at home.—Shoes and hats were manufactured in the household. Out on Sugar Creek ANDREW BOWMAN commenced tanning for himself and neighbors by laying down his hides in troughs cut from chestnut trees. This was about seventy years ago.

Houses were built with round logs, with the cracks chinked and daubed. The roofs were covered with clapboards split from a straight red oak. The floors were of puncheons split from the trees. Sometimes there was neither sawed lumber, nor nail, nor bit of iron in the entire building. The chimney was made of split sticks covered with mortar made of clay and straw.

These houses did not cost much. The neighbors turned out and assisted each other. A raising was a grand occasion. It brought the people together. They came with their axes, cut off the logs, notched the corners and laid them up, split out the clapboards and puncheons, and by evening the house was completed. If they could not procure glass, muslin or oiled paper answered the purpose of glass for windows.

The furniture too, was of the most primitive kind. At first the bed was a kind of bunk made against the wall of the cabin; then a

home-made arrangement of timber, with elm bark cordage, and the bedstead was supplied. The first chairs were made at home. A rude frame work was constructed and the seat made of splints, obtained by pounding strips of black ash until the growths separated, and with a little dressing were ready for the purpose.

Then gradually mechanics came in and the arts of civilization ministered to the comfort and convenience of the people.

The early settlers were eminently social in their habits. Necessity and self-protection helped to make them so. They not only assembled to build each other's houses, but they had "frolics," as they termed them, to chop down the trees; they had loggings, and flax-pullings, and scutchings, and huskings. The women had their frolics; their quiltings, their spinnings, their hatchelings, and other devices of handicraft.

In those days they did not aspire to carpets. Rag sewing, in which ladies have delighted in modern times, was unknown. But in other species of feminine industry they excelled. Flax was made into linen for men's wear and for women's wear. It was the choice and only covering for the table; it was the material for sheets, for toweling, and was bleached white as the snow of winter.

These frolics brought the people together. They cultivated sociability. They promoted good feeling, and in the absence of machinery were often the only means of carrying on the operations of life. They were the practical exemplification of the maxim: "In union there is strength."

As far as the opportunity was afforded these early settlers were a church-going people. The religious meetings might be held in the cabins of the neighbors, in some early constructed barn, or in the leaf sheltered forest. We have seen that as early as 1800, a Presbyterian congregation was gathered at Lower Sandy, near Utica, and in Scrubgrass another was formed two years after, and a Methodist church erected in 1805. But in addition to these we hear of the Presbyterian missionary coming through the settlements, preaching where he could find hearers and going on his way to seek new dwellers in the wilderness. The Methodist circuit rider often sought the new countries, extending his circuit until it should embrace the most distant dwellers in the forest.

And the old fathers tell us what diligence was used to attend these preachings in the forest. When word came that there would be preaching on a given Sabbath, men would make it their business to go far and near to notify their neighbors. When a minister, Rev. JAMES SATTERFIELD, announced his coming to a neighboring township in 1801, a few men made it their business to notify every family in the township.

And they came from great distances. They traveled on horseback and on foot. On special occasians of Sacraments or camp-meetings, they came five, ten, and even twenty miles. They were not particular about their dress. Clean linen, even though it was of coarse texture, was thought to be becoming and proper. Men came without their coats in summer, or carried them on their arms. The young women would walk and carry their shoes and stockings until within sight of the meeting place, when they would sit down on a log and put them on, and so present a decorous appearance at the preaching.

Kindness and hospitality were prime virtues those days. When a neighbor killed a deer or a bear, he always felt it his duty to send a piece of the game around to the nearest neighbors; and they in turn returned the favor. The families who lived nearest the place where these religious meetings were held, felt it their duty to entertain those who came from a distance. Often such houses would have the entire floor covered with extemporized beds. And all was done in the most free and decorous manner.

Honesty and truth and fair dealing were prime virtues. No wonder they did not need courts of law to settle difficulties, as we find that no court was held in the county until 1805.

The military record of the county has been good. In the war of 1812, during the threatened invasion of Erie by the British, every man that could possibly be spared from home duties, went thither. They were connected with a regiment of which RALPH MARLIN, of Meadville, was Colonel, and SAMUEL DALE, of this county, was Lieutenant Colonel. This regiment was called out again in 1814, at the time of the burning of Buffalo. There is an interesting fact in this connection relative to the old Chief CORNPLANTER. On the news of the war, he came to Franklin to see his old friend Colonel DALE, and enquire into the cause of the strife. When the matter was explained to him, he said: "Well, you are going to the war, in defense of the country; I will go with you with two hundred braves. The country has been kind to me, and it is but right that I should lead my young men to her defense."

Colonel DALE informed him that it was not necessary that he should go; it was but a small matter. But the Chief insisted that he should go; the corn was planted and he could go just as well as not. He was only satisfied by Colonel DALE promising to notify him when any necessity should arise requiring his services.

In the Mexican war a few soldiers from this county were engaged. Several officers in the regular army were in the service. HAYS, RENO, BOWMAN and MCCLELLAND, were in active service through the entire war.

In the recent war of 1861–5, the county was well represented. Several entire companies were raised here; and a large number went in squads, and as individuals.

The Soldiers' Monument, standing in South Park, contains some four hundred names of our dead soldiers, who died on the field of battle, in prisons, in hospitals, and at home; who died of wounds received in battle, of sickness incurred in camp, of starvation in the hands of the enemy. They died for themselves and for us. They died that this grand Government of ours "should not perish from the earth."

Amongst our dead braves, whom we are proud to remember this day, are Brigadier General ALEXANDER HAYS, who fell in the terrible battle of the Wilderness, May 5, 1864; Major General J. L. RENO, who fell at the battle of South Mountain, September 14, 1862; Major W. B. MAYS, Captain WILLIAM EVANS, Lieutenants J. D. and S. H. COCHRAN, GEORGE W. BRICKLEY, and others, whom it would be pleasant to mention.

These all have their names written on that marble shaft that the people of this county so well love to garland with flowers at our annual May decoration.

Many of them sleep in unknown graves; graves unmarked by stone or cenotaph; graves that will be forever hidden until the voice of the archangel and the trump of GOD shall awake all earth's sleepers from the dust of the earth; but they are held in grateful remembrance to-day.

And we would not forget Brigadier General A. B. MCCALMONT, so gallant in the field, so genial in social life, so noble in heart, who has so recently gone from amongst us. Still more recently, Colonel JAMES K. KERR has been called away, and must not be forgotten.

And there are gallant officers and soldiers amongst us still, whose services will never be forgotten. They bore the brunt and storm of battle, some of them through the whole of the war, then came back to be citizens once more in the quiet walks of life. Some of them bear the marks of honorable warfare upon their persons. There are empty sleeves and halting limbs that tell us of the fiery charge, of the "imminent deadly breach," and of the leaden and iron rain that filled the air with deadly horrors. These brave men are here amongst us to-day, and are worthy of all honor.

And while these laurel-decked hills that environ our county seat shall stand, let that Monument, that tells of Venango's contribution to the death-roll of patriotism, be cherished, and honored, and decked with flowers on each returning May. And let all our soldiers, dead or living, be honored in the hearts of their fellow-citizens for their work in our behalf.

The history of the Newspaper press forms an interesting chapter in the history of the county. For years it had a constant struggle, but at last it is well patronized. The first newspaper was called *The Venango Herald*, established in 1820; after this was *The Venango Democrat*, in 1824; then *The Democratic Republican*; then *The Franklin Intelligencer*, in 1834; then *The Democratic Arch*, in 1842; *The Franklin Gazette*, in 1844; *The Advocate and Journal*, in 1848; *The Venango Spectator*, in 1849; *The Franklin Whig Banner*, in 1852; *The Venango Citizen*, in 1854; and *The Independent Press*, in 1876. These were all located at the county seat.

Oil City has had several newspapers. *The Oil City Register* was established in 1861; *The Petroleum Monthly* was published there for a time; *The Oil City Monitor*; *The Oil City Times*, a daily paper; *The Oil City Derrick*, an enterprising and successful daily, is issued there; also *The Weekly Times*.

Emlenton has had its paper, *The Valley Echo*, succeeded by *The Emlenton Times*. Pithole had its *Record*; Pleasantville its *Evening News*; Petroleum Centre its *Record*; Rouseville its *Pennsylvanian*, and Reno its *Times*.

There are some files of these papers yet extant, and they relate a personal history, as well as throw light upon the history of the county. They tell of poverty and self-denial. The early papers were small. The material of the office did not admit of good work, and the poverty of the people did not admit of good patronage. It was not easy to make a good paper in those days. Mails came once a week, and then the news was slow in finding its way. A fragment of a paper of the date of April 22, 1820, has, as one of its news items, an account of the duel between Commodore DECATUR and Commodore BARRON, near Washington, that occurred just one month before. The papers of the county now are equal to the best in the country.

There were two circumstances that for many years retarded the settlement of Venango County. The first was the possession of the Holland Land Company. During the Revolution, the Colonies had borrowed money largely from Amsterdam. In Pennsylvania this loan was repaid in land. The land came into the possession of the Holland Land Company. A large quantity of this land lay in this county. It was in the market, but so burdened with restrictions that few cared to settle upon it. But one hundred acres could be settled; a house must be built, and other stipulations carried out.

The other circumstance was, that much of the land in the western part of the county was donated to soldiers of the Revolution.—These lands were in parcels of from two to five hundred acres, according to the rank of the soldier, and were drawn by lot. They

were free from taxes as long as they were in possession of the soldier. Much of these lands lay without settlement for many years.

The first public improvement in the county was the Waterford and Susquehanna Turnpike. It was a link in the chain of contemplated work from Erie across the mountains to Bellefonte, and thence to Philadelphia.

This road was laid out through the county in the year 1818. It was the scene of a large amount of travel for many years, and was kept up as a toll road until a comparatively recent period.

During the war of 1812, French Creek was an important link in navigation, for the conveyance of military stores from Pittsburgh to Erie. The naval armament, boat stores and other important matters pertaining to the fitting out of PERRY'S fleet, were conveyed by this route. They came up by flat boat on the Allegheny, thence up French Creek to Waterford, and thence by land to Erie. It was a source of surprise to the British that these stores could be obtained at all, with Lake navigation interrupted. All this boating was done by men walking backwards and pushing the boat against the current. When swift water was encountered they took a line forward, attached it to a tree on the shore and wound it up with the capstan.

The next public improvement was that of the "Franklin Canal Company." It was first known as "The French Creek Division of the Pennsylvania Canal," and designed as a link in the water communication between Erie and Pittsburgh. The plan was to build dams on French Creek and thus make slack-water navigation between Franklin and Meadville. The work was completed in 1833. From some cause it was a grand failure. But two boats ever passed from Franklin to Meadville. It cost the State a million and a quarter of dollars to construct the work, and subsequently fifty thousand dollars for repairs, when the whole was abandoned. All that now remains of it is the outlet dam, that serves as a mill power for the Venango Mills.

This work was commenced when the policy of the State was to carry on internal improvements on its own account. And just then canals were supposed to be the great institutions of the age. Money was laid out lavishly, without counting the cost, or considering its propriety.

By the time the work was fairly completed, different counsels began to prevail, and at last its importance fell in official view, and it was left to to swell the number of wrecks that belong to the past.

After the partial abandonment of the work by the State, it was kept open for descending navigation for some years. There was still considerable boating in the matter of lumber, staves and shingles from Erie and Crawford counties, and some of the dams were kept

in repair, with the locks. What was known as the "Big Dam," about a mile above Franklin, was the last to give way. Finally, a band of men from the upper Creek came down, armed with axes, picks, and levers, and thoroughly demolished the entire structure. It was strongly built and seemed as though it would have withstood the utmost power of the flood, if left to the natural course of events.

It is said by engineers that the masonry of the locks was of a very superior quality, and that no finer or better work was to be found in the State.

A very important feature in the history of this county was its iron business. It was once thought to be very rich in iron ore, and this business was the pride and glory of the people. The business began to flourish in 1842, under the cherishing influence of a favorable tariff. In 1847, there were no less than seventeen furnaces in blast, producing in the aggregate twelve thousand tons of pig-iron per annum, valued at that time at about $380,000. The power used in all cases was water, the fuel charcoal. The consequences were that the timber was destroyed over a large portion of the county.

Some of these furnaces used bog ore exclusively, producing a fine quality of iron for foundry purposes. The amount of capital employed could not be estimated readily. Credit was employed largely. Merchandise was bought to be paid for with the manufactured iron, and labor was paid for with merchandise. A Furnace Store in those days was a curiosity, and the prices at which goods were sold astonishing. Everything imaginable was contained in the store.—Prints were sold at fifty cents per yard. Molasses at one dollar and fifty cents per gallon. A double-bitted ax sold for five dollars, and other things in proportion. Flour and bacon were staple articles, and the employees were wholly dependent on the furnace men for subsistence. The furnace men had a varied experience. Many a farmer entered upon the business with a comfortable property and left it penniless.

The amount of capital necessary to carry on one of these furnaces was about $20,000; or, when the business was at its greatest prosperity, some $340,000 in the aggregate.

Another branch of the iron business was the Franklin Rolling Mill, embracing a nail factory. This was erected in 1843, and continued in operation until 1850, when the general failure of the iron business caused it to go out of operation. The establishment was carried on under the firm name of NOCK, DANGERFIELD & CO. Some of our own citizens were connected with it. About five tons of bar iron and three of nails were manufactured daily. The capital invested was about $60,000. The power and buildings have since been used for a barrel factory, tag factory, and latterly as a tannery.

The oil business had its commencement in this county. Its development here has been like a dream of romance and almost suggestive of the Arabian Nights' Entertainment.

Some oil springs were known on Oil Creek from the earliest settlement of the country. The most famous of these were on the CARY and MCCLINTOCK farms. The oil was collected by placing blankets in the spring and wringing them out in tubs. It was used as a medicine.

The first oil well was drilled by E. L. DRAKE, on Oil Creek, in Cherrytree township. Oil was first struck August 28, 1859, and the way opened up to fortune and fame to some and to disappointment and poverty to others. The second well was MCCLINTOCK'S, near Rouseville, the third at Franklin—the celebrated EVANS well. The first developments were along Oil Creek, then along the Allegheny and French Creek. Pumping wells were succeeded by flowing ones, until prices came down and oil could be bought for a time at twenty-five cents per barrel. The first flowing well was obtained on the MCELHENNY farm. It was in 1861. Then followed a splendid and wonderful series of wells flowing fabulous quantities, until literally "the rock poured out rivers of oil." This was followed by the Phillips well at two thousand barrels per day. This was followed by the Maple Shade, Jersey, Coquette, Reed, and finally the Empire, yielding the modest amount of three thousand barrrels per day. It is difficult to determine the whole amount yielded by Venango county during the last seventeen years. During the first six years the production was confined exclusively to this county. About the year 1865, developments commenced down the river below us, and the production here has been comparatively small. The heavy lubricating oil is still confined to the region of Franklin. The GALLOWAY, FEE, LAMBERTON, MCCALMONT, and SMITH farms, and the bluff overlooking Franklin, are the main locations.

If we take the statistics of production since 1859, we will find the probable amount of oil produced in the county to have been in the neighborhood of forty millions of barrels. If we take the average price as four dollars per barrel, the value of the crude product will be $160,000,000. And this is perhaps a low estimate of the actual result.

This business has afforded employment to a large number of men. Strangers thronged around the oil country. They could not be accommodated at hotels, in any of the towns; the public conveyances were overburdened. At one time it was computed that in the valley of Oil Creek alone, there was a population of thirty thousand.

New towns sprung up like magic. Some of them were like the

gourd that sheltered JONAH in the outskirts of Nineveh; they sprung up in a night, and perished in a night.

Speculation in real estate was a prominent feature in the enterprises of the county. This was at its hight about the year 1864.—There was a large amount of worthless land lying along the margins of the river and creeks, that came into the market as possible "oil territory." These lands were sold at extravagant prices, and oil companies formed and stock issued. The result was that worthless oil stocks flooded the country and impoverished many of the people.—But justice to our own citizens requires the statement, that these oil companies were usually gotten up in the eastern cities.

The valley of Oil Creek had a romantic history during the years 1860 to 1864. The oil so plentifully produced must find its way to market chiefly by the mouth of the creek. Teams sufficient could not be procured, and some kind of navigation must be provided up and down the creek. But the creek at best was an insignificant stream. It could not be slack-watered so as to afford a continuous stage of high water. Resort was therefore had to an original system of artificial navigation. Dams were thrown across the creek at intervals, and some old saw-mill dams pressed into the service. These dams had draws in them so that the water could be let out at will. They were used to create what were called "pond freshets." The water was collected and retained so as to make a pond freshet about twice a week. The day and hour were arranged beforehand so that the oil men had everything ready. The boats were filled with oil, and the men in charge all ready for the voyage. At the appointed hour the upper dam was opened. This raised the stream and bore with it the upper boats; then the next dam gave its tribute until a miniature river was formed, each station swelling the number of boats, until, as the mouth was reached, some two hundred boats could be counted, containing in the aggregate some eight or ten thousand barrels of Petroleum.

The scene was very exciting at Oil City on the advent of this fleet of boats. As they rushed down, the shouting of the men, the dashing of the waters, and often the wreck of the boats, formed a scene that was full of interest.

The oil was usually carried in bulk. It was often impossible to prevent collisions. Frequently one boat would dash its corner into the side of another, crushing it like an egg-shell, when oil and oil-men together would be swimming in the water.

There were certain unwritten rules that regulated this navigation. Each producer along the creek was expected to bear his proportion of the expense of providing these periodical floods. This

was regulated by the number of barrels shipped. The tariff was at the rate of five cents per barrel.

Up stream navigation was by horse power. Two horses were attached to a rough flat-boat and walked in the water in the middle of the creek the whole distance. This craft carried passengers and freights. But the passage was not at all desirable, except in cases of necessity.

The business of refining oil has been carried on somewhat extensively in the county, yet not perhaps with the same success as in other places. Refineries have been carried on at Plumer, at Oil City, at Siverleyville, at Franklin, and at other places.

The preparation of lubricating oil has met with greater success than refining. This is largely carried on at Franklin. The Galena, the Eclipse, the Amber, the Keystone, and Hendrick Works, have been very successful, preparing a lubricator adapted to the most delicate machinery, as well as to the common steam engine. The same business is carried on at Rouseville.

Great facilities are now enjoyed in handling the common product. Half a dozen wells are coupled to the same engine. Pipe lines convey it to some common centre, and tank cars carry it to the seaboard and other markets.

There seems to have been a particular Providence connected with the discovery of oil in the depths of the rock. The first wells were found very near the surface. DRAKE'S was but seventy feet deep; EVANS'S, the second one bored, was but seventy-two feet; MCCLINTOCK'S, the third, about the same. These wells were found in pockets or cavities of the rock, into which the oil had found its way in its upward journey to the surface.

Had these trial wells, particularly DRAKE'S, been bored in almost any other locality, there would have been failure. No living man would have had the courage to bore down in the solid rock fifteen hundred or two thousand feet, as they are doing in modern times. But the oil was there. The time had come for its distribution throughout the earth, and nothing could prevent its discovery, or mar the plan of Providence.

In the prosecution of the oil business great advantages have been derived from the use of the torpedo in oil wells It is filled with various explosive substances, powder, gun-cotton, nitro-glycerine, and other materials, and exploded down in the sand rock.

The first idea of the use of the torpedo in this business belongs to A. W. RAYMOND, of Franklin. It was suggested by him in 1859. In that year a torpedo was made under his directions, by filling a long tin cylinder with gunpowder. It was lowered into the second well that was bored in Franklin. A common blast fuse was attach-

ed to the cylinder for the purpose of exploding it. But the pressure of the water collapsed the fuse and it could not be exploded. An effort was afterward made to procure a battery to renew the attempt, but it was unsuccessful, and the idea for a time lost sight of. If Mr. RAYMOND had patented the invention he might have reaped a golden harvest as the result. But fortune sometimes comes very near, without bestowing her gifts.

In 1864, Colonel E. A. L. ROBERTS, having conceived the same idea, but without the knowledge of any former experiments, applied for a patent for a torpedo to be used in oil wells. The first experiment was made in January, 1865. This experiment was successful. But it did not come into general use for one or two years afterwards. It is now recognized as an important agent in developing oil wells.

Several terrible accidents have attended the business of manufacturing torpedoes. Magazines containing them have been blown up at Reno, at Oil City, at Franklin, and at Scrubgrass, with fearful results.

Coal mines are found in the southern part of the county. The existence of these mines was unknown to the early settlers. They did not require the coal. The land was covered with wood, and this was sufficient for fuel. As wood began to grow scarce, the inquiry was made in regard to the probable existence of coal. In the outcroppings of the hills, signs of it were found, and search revealed its presence.

The most thoroughly developed coal mines are in Mineral township, on the line of the Jamestown and Franklin Railroad. Coal of good quality is found there in large quantities. It is also found in good quality and quantity in the region adjoining Butler county; also in Sandycreek township near Franklin, and in Cranberry township near Oil City. The veins are not heavy in any of these places, yet of sufficient weight to make the working of them profitable.

In the ancient times, the mode of travel was to go on horseback. A little later, persons could go to Pittsburgh by skiff, or flat-boat, or raft. Meadville and Waterford could be reached by skiff or flat-boat. It was a grand event when the first steamboat came up the river. This was the "Duncan," that came in 1826. And as it landed at the bank of the river there was grand shouting and throwing up of hats, on the part of the people. In the course of years steamboating became a very important business. There was a regular succession of boats called the Belle, that did a good business. Thirty years ago there were no more popular river men than

Captains JOHN and WILLIAM HANNA. But as years have rolled by, even steamboating has become slow, and its days have been numbered, as far as the Allegheny is concerned.

By land, coaches and hacks took the place of horseback travel. Lines of hacks ran from Franklin to Meadville, to Warren, to Clarion, to Pittsburgh. Some of the middle-aged people will remember the old "huckleberry stage," that crossed the Sandy Creek hills, and on to the Stone House and Prospect to Pittsburgh. The journey continued through the night, over rough roads, with ragged curtains flapping in the winter wind, and every jolt of the hack threatened to send the passengers through the opposite end of the conveyance. If the hack broke down, the loan of a farm wagon was obtained and the journey continued. But gradually railroads approached our county until the advent of the oil business brought them to our doors.

Originally the mail facilities were not good. For a time the county was without post routes. The first United States mail that came into the county was in 1802. It was carried on horseback in saddle-bags, and came once in three weeks, and even then brought but a few letters. The route was from Erie to Pittsburgh. The mail carrier was Mr. ASH, who was always punctual, unless detained by high waters or deep snows.

In course of time the trips were more frequent, but it was long before the mail was carried on wheels. Up to 1848, the county was without a daily mail to facilitate the transaction of business.

There were no banks up to 1860. The early merchants when going for goods, packed up their Spanish dollars in saddle-bags, mounted their horses and rode to Philadelphia. Long after this, they still packed their money in their trunks, and in the stage crossed the mountains, with all their funds with them. Yet withal, robberies were very rare, and this personal care of baggage comparatively safe.

The county is well provided with banking institutions for facilities of exchange and the general transaction of business. The first bank was that of R. LAMBERTON & CO. This was in 1860. Since then many others have been organized, as the exigencies of business seemed to demand. Franklin has had its banks. After the Lamberton, was the Venango, merged into the Venango National, suspended; First National; Franklin Bank, merged into the First National; International, Exchange, Lamberton Savings, and the Franklin Savings.

In Oil City there have been several banks; also at Rouseville, at Pleasantville, at Plumer, and at Emlenton. At present there are in active business, at Franklin, five banks; at Oil City, six; at Pleasantville, two; at Emlenton, one; in all, fourteen. These all appear to be well managed and flourishing.

The first Railroad completed in the county was the Franklin Branch of the Atlantic and Great Western. This was in 1863. It was followed by the Jamestown and Franklin, in 1867, and that by the Allegheny Valley, in the fall of the same year.

The population of the county has steadily increased since its organization. In the year 1800, it was 1,130; 1810, 3,060; 1820, 4,915; 1830, 9,470; 1840, 17,900; 1850, 18,310; 1860, 25,044; 1870, 47,935.

The great flood of 1865 marks an important era in the history of the county. It was in the month of March. Considerable snow was on the ground when it commenced raining. This was on the 17th. The rain came down in torrents during the entire day. It was not the ordinary rain of spring, but the very heavens seemed to have been opened, and the great flood to be leaping forth.

The waters of the Allegheny and French Creek began to rise toward evening with great rapidity. During the night the waters began to creep up above the ordinary high water mark, and many families, finding their dwellings invaded, were glad to seek refuge on higher ground. On the morning on the 17th the sight of the river and large creeks was awfully grand and impressive. The current was sweeping wildly beyond its banks, bearing upon its bosom the evidences of the devastation that had been committed during the night. This was particularly the case on the Allegheny. It seemed as though the entire upper oil region must have been a scene of ruin. Houses, sheds, derricks, oil tanks, bull-wheels, barrels, and furniture, were in dire confusion, whirling down the current. Lumber, staves, timber, farming utensils, all assisted in swelling the mighty tide of ruin. Even houses and homes were torn from their foundations and borne resistlessly along, with their tenants at the mercy of the waters.

Oil Creek bridge, Sugarcreek and French Creek,—all were swept away. Oil City suffered greatly. The principal streets were covered with water to the depth of several feet. Many families retreated up the steep bank, as communication was cut off from the upper part of the city, and fires were kindled to keep the people comfortable.

The probabilities are that such a flood was never known in this county before. Persons who had resided here for seventy years say that the great flood of 1806 did not reach to the dimensions of this of 1865.

Another item in the history of the county is the great frosts of June 5 and 12, 1859. The wheat and rye were just in blossom, and there was every prospect of a bountiful harvest. But these frosts smote the fields as with the besom of destruction. The evening before, nature smiled, like Eden almost, with beauty and the prospect of plenty; but on the Sabbath morning the fields were blasted and blackened as though the breath of the sirocco had swept over them.

A deep and heavy gloom settled over the community. The question of bread became exceedingly practical, and the fear arose that multitudes of our citizens would be obliged to leave their homes for a warmer sky and a more genial atmosphere. But the danger passed over. Corn was plenty in Egypt, and means were found for purchasing it, and the next year brought good crops.

Whilst this county has not the level plains and fertile soil of many other counties, it has yet a respectable soil and many portions of it are well adapted to agricultural pursuits. The valley of Sugar Creek, and parts of French Creek are not excelled by any portions of the State. Portions of Allegheny township, Scrubgrass, Richland, and Rockland, abound in fine farms, and richly repay the labors of the farmer.

In the years of the lumber, iron and oil business, agriculture was too much neglected. Many of the farmers turned their attention to lumbering, to teaming, in connection with the furnaces, and to laboring at the oil wells. Latterly many good farms have been abandoned to the pursuit of oil. But with proper attention, the farms of the county would not be behind those of the majority of the counties of the Commonwealth.

FRANKLIN.

The first actual settlement in the county was at Franklin. In the same place where JOHN FRAZIER, the Scotchman, had set himself down to tinker up old guns for the Indians, and to sell them new ones, in exchange for furs and skins, in 1745 to 1747, GEORGE POWERS came in 1790, to engage in much the some business, except the gunsmithing. JOHN FRAZIER had probably built his log cabin down near the Allegheny bridge, as we find the Frenchman, JONCAIRE, occupying his house whilst building Fort Machault. GEORGE POWERS pitched his tent near the upper French Creek bridge, perhaps because the United States Garrison was located there, and he desired company and protection. The town was most probably named after the Fort.

GEORGE POWERS had come here first in 1787, with the soldiers to assist in building Fort Franklin. He seems to have had some connection with the army officially, that perhaps terminated with the completion of the Fort. He returned in 1790 with the intention of making it his home, bringing with him a small stock of goods in order to carry on a traffic with the Indians. He became a famous Indian trader, and spoke the language of the Senecas with ease. His store was on the bank of French Creek, between Thirteenth and West Park streets, a little below the upper bridge. Near this, at the corner of Otter and Elbow streets, he built his stone house in 1803, that was pulled down in 1872. This was a famous house for

many years. It and Colonel McDOWELL'S stone building were the grand houses, to which strangers were pointed as they looked at the new town. It was used as a hotel in 1823. Mr. POWERS at first kept house with his mother. In 1802 he was married to a sister of ANDREW BOWMAN, who became a prominent citizen of the place in after days. He was a shrewd trader and was on particularly good terms with CORNPLANTER. But Indians are shrewd too. On one occasion he purchased from a hunting party a very nice fox skin, and threw it up on the loft of his store. A few hours afterward another fine skin was brought in and disposed of in the same manner, until at intervals of two or three hours through the day, a fine skin was brought in and sold. Suspicions were excited and an investigation showed that but one skin had been in possession of the party, and had been quietly removed by climbing up to a back window in the loft of the store, and resold.

GEORGE POWERS always claimed that he was the first white settler who commenced work in the county. He died April 2, 1845, in the eighty-fifth year of his age. Many of his descendants are citizens of the town at the present time. Colonel ALEXANDER McDOWELL came here in 1794, but did not bring his family until 1797. He was a Surveyor and Agent for the Holland Land Company, and was from Franklin county, Pennsylvania. EDWARD HALE settled here in 1797. He was the father of Mrs. BOWMAN and Mrs. JAMES KINNEAR. He died May 19, 1806, in the thirtieth year of his age.—Colonel JAMES G. HERRON came to Franklin in 1800. The family came by land, the furniture was brought from Pittsburgh by keel-boat, and was three weeks in making the passage. At that time there were six families in town. These were the families of GEORGE POWERS, Colonel McDOWELL, Captain GEORGE FOWLER, EDWARD HALE, MARK HULINGS, who lived just at the foot of West Park street, and ran a keel-boat between Franklin and Pittsburgh, and ABRAHAM SELDERS. These, with Captain HERRON, formed the population of the town at the beginning of 1800. Captain GEORGE FOWLER had been a British officer during the Revolutionary War, and had married and settled in the new town. He lived at first in the old Garrison, afterwards on Elk street, near Ninth. He was a Justice of the Peace for many years. Captain HERRON had been an officer in the Revolution. He was afterwards one of the important men of the county.

Colonel McDOWELL was one of the prominent men of the town from the first. A remarkable surgical operation is recorded as having been performed by Mrs. McDOWELL, in their early days. She had but two chickens, and vegetables were scarce. A seed cucumber had been ripened and the seed taken out and laid on a table to

dry in the sun, To the horror of this good woman, on looking out, she discovered that one of these hens had just completed her meal by devouring those precious seeds. The hen could not be spared; the seeds must not be lost. To decide was to act. Seizing the hen, Mrs. McDOWELL cut open her crop with scissors, forced out the seeds and then sewed up the wound with a needle and thread, when the hen went on her way rejoicing.

In 1801, the first sermon was preached in Franklin. It was by a Presbyterian minister, at the house of Captain HERRON. Soon after this, a log cabin was erected for a school house, and covered with clapboards. Mr. MASON, from Sugarcreek, was the first teacher.

In 1803, General SAMUEL HAYS arrived. He was born in Ireland, and was always one of the men Venango county delighted to honor. He held at different times nearly every office in the gift of the people. He died in 1868, in the eighty-fifth year of his age.—Colonel McDOWELL at first lived in a log cabin on the bank of the creek, just below the present dam. Afterwards he built a log house on Elk street below Eleventh. This was in 1803. The house was weatherboarded, and stood until a few years ago. There was no house carpenter in the place, and JOHN BROADFOOT, afterwards a citizen here, was brought from Oil Creek to do the work. It was occupied for some time without windows, as glass was a luxury not easily obtained. Still it was esteemed a very comfortable and stylish house. Some time after, the first wall paper ever seen in Franklin was brought from Philadelphia, and hung in this house. It was of a quaint style, with white ground and blue pictures of boys and dogs scattered over it. This paper came in sheets, and being thick and strong, lasted until the house was pulled down in 1874. Colonel McDOWELL died in 1816, in the fifty-third year of his age. Mrs. SARAH McDOWELL survived her husband just half a century, living chiefly in the old house erected by her husband, and serving as a connecting link between the ancient and modern times. She died in 1866, in the one hundred and third year of her age. There are portraits of these old pioneers still extant. Judging from these, Colonel McDOWELL was a sedate, dignified gentleman, of the Washingtonian school, used to prominent position, and well versed in the amenities of life. Mrs. McDOWELL was a small woman, quite beautiful in person, attractive in conversation, and was esteemed by her acquaintances as a most desirable friend and neighbor. She lived to see great changes in the town. Many of their descendants are with us to-day.

JOHN BROADFOOT, the carpenter, became one of the first Elders in the Presbyterian church. He was a Scotchman, and a very sedate, reliable man. His son, JOHN, remained a bachelor, and was a Justice of the Peace. Three of his daughters married here; one to

General SAMUEL HAYS; one to ROBERT, and the third to ALEXANDER MCCALMONT. A fourth, BETSY, was never married, but died at an advanced age, March 16th, 1864.

During these years the Indians were frequent visitors. They usually encamped on the point above French Creek, bringing their furs and skins to trade for such necessary articles as they required. At such times, with the suspicion that whisky was among their purchases, they held many a frolic that continued far into the night, often awaking the citizens with their wild yells, and reminding them of forest life, and the weak points of savage nature. Yet withal, they were peaceful, and very seldom committed any positive mischief. CORNPLANTER was in the habit of making frequent visits to consult his old friends. On one occasion he came to consult Colonel DALE as to the propriety of paying taxes on his lands on Oil Creek, alleging that the Indian asked no tax from the white man, and asking the same immunity for himself and brethren. Colonel DALE replied that there were some bad white men in the country who required punishment, and that courts and prisons must be provided for this purpose, and all this required money, and to raise this money taxes must be levied. "Well," replied the old Sagamore, "there are bad Indians too, that must be punished, but we attend to that ourselves, and never ask the white men to assist us, and what is good for the Indian must be good for the white man." This was the stern logic of the Indian, to which he always adhered, whether it was satisfactory to the white man or not. This question of taxes was one the Chief never could comprehend. It gave him great trouble. Finally, an act of the Legislature was passed exempting his lands from taxation, while they should be in his possession and that of his descendants.

At this early day improvement moved slowly. The citizens were accustomed to meet on moonlight nights and grub stumps from the public square. At one time EDWARD HALE had a portion of this ground under cultivation. The following witness of this fact still survives:

"We the Trustees for the County of Venango, agree to lease to EDWARD HALE, all that part of the Public Square in the town of Franklin, which the said EDWARD HALE has now under fence, at the rate of one dollar a year, until the ground which the said HALE has now in cultivation is wanted for public use, for the use of said county.

"JUNE 10th, 1801. "JAMES MCCLARAN,

"ALEXANDER MCDOWELL,

"Attest:—JOHN JOHNSTON. "Trustees."

Many persons remember the Old Diamond Well, on the Park, just below the Kinnear House. There is an old document extant that attests its age:

"We the subscribers appointed to measure and ascertain the depth of a well dug by JOHN WITHERUP, for EDWARD HALE, SAMUEL PLUMER and SAMUEL HAYS, do allow that the wall of said well is good, and the depth of said well according to our judgment and measurement is forty-four feet, eleven inches and one-half.

"Witness our hands this second day of October, 1808.

"WELDEN ADAMS,
"JOHN WHITMAN,
"RICHARD GRIFFITH."

There are some indications that the early fathers of Franklin were rather "gay and festive," at times. On one occasion an ordinance was passed that every person found intoxicated should be compelled to dig out a stump from the Public Square. It is further related that another ordinance consigned to the jail every one found in a similar condition on the Sabbath, and that on the Sabbath following the enactment of the law, nearly every solid citizen of the town was found in limbo.

In the early days, Court week was a grand occasion in Franklin and to the county. People thronged the streets and Court House, whether they had business or not. All took an interest in the trial of causes, and entered into the merits of the cases.

The first Sabbath School was established in the month of March, 1824. It was held in the Academy. The first Superintendents were ANDREW BOWMAN and LEVI DODD. The first teachers were WILLIAM PARKER, GEORGE MCCLELLAND, WILLIAM RAYMOND, F. G. CRARY, ROBERT MCCALMONT, Mrs. DAVID IRVINE, Mrs. WILLIAM RAYMOND, Mrs. SARAH MAYES, Mrs. SARAH SAGE, Miss MARY ANDERSON, Mrs. ARNOLD PLUMER, Mrs. JANE SNOWDEN. Mrs. N. R. BUSHNELL and Mrs. S. F. DALE, were amongst the first scholars.—Afterwards it was held for a time in Mr. BOWMAN'S shoe shop, on Elk street. This was a Union School. Afterwards it took on the denominational form, and other schools were organized, as churches followed in the wake of increasing population.

ANDREW BOWMAN came to Venango county in 1795. He pursued the business of tanning and shoemaking, and moved to Franklin in 1813. In 1816, he erected the house on the corner of Elk and West Park streets, once a famous house, but now showing the changes of time. LEVI DODD came to the county in 1821, and to Franklin in 1823. He was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, February 28, 1799, and is now one of our oldest citizens.

Mr. DODD speaks of the population of the town at the time of

his coming as about two hundred and fifty. There were then prominent amongst the families, the PARKS, the PLUMERS, McCLELLANDS, McCORMICKS, KINNEARS, McCALMONTS, CONNELYS, GALBRAITHS, RIDGWAYS, MORRISONS, MARTINS, CLARKS, SAGES, DEWOODYS, HULINGS, CRARYS, BLACKS, SMITHS, MAYS, SEATONS, BRIGHAMS, SMILEYS, BAILEYS, KINGS, GURNEYS, KELLOGGS, GRACES, McDOWELLS, HAYS', BROADFOOTS, WILLIAM RAYMOND, Dr. ESPY, JOHN J. PEARSON, and STEPHEN SUTTON.

WILLIAM and JAMES KINNEAR were brothers. The former acted as Justice of the Peace. He had a large family, the members of which nearly all settled in Franklin. He came in 1812, and died in 1844, in the sixty-seventh year of his age. JAMES KINNEAR came in 1816. He was County Treasurer for one term; also Associate Judge. He died February 13, 1851, in the fifty-sixth year of his age. Rev. HEZEKIAH MAY was a Presbyterian clergyman from Marblehead, Massachusetts. He sojourned here for a time, when he removed to Tionesta, where he spent the remainder of his days. He died July 4, 1843, in his seventieth year. JOHN GALBRAITH was lawyer and editor here in 1821. He removed to Erie, where he became Judge of the Sixth Judicial District. He died June 15th, 1860.—JOHN J. PEARSON removed to Mercer, and is at the present time President Judge of the Harrisburg District.

Others came after this. Among them were the BARCLAYS, HANNAS, MACKEYS, DEWOODYS, ALEXANDERS, IRWINS, SNOWDENS, ADAMS', THOMPSONS, RENOS, WOODS', ANDERSONS, HOOVERS, LAMBERTONS, COCHRANS, DUBBS', and others, until the time would fail to enumerate them all. Judge LAMBERTON came in 1830; Mr. MACKEY in 1831, and Judge IRWIN in 1834. The persons named above have nearly all passed away, but many of their descendants are our fellow-citizens to-day.

The first store was opened by GEORGE POWERS, followed by General WILKINS. They were followed by ARCHIBALD TANNER. WILLIAM CONNELY, ARTHUR ROBISON, ALEXANDER McCALMONT, and others.

PATCHELL was the first hatter. On one occasion he manufactured a wonderful hat from the long hair of a neglected colt. This hair had been shed in the spring, in large masses, and was utilized in this remarkable manner. The subsequent history of that hat would be interesting, but it is lost. PATCHELL was succeeded by his pupil, ANDREW DEWOODY, who carried on the business for many years. Who of the older citizens does not remember ANDREW DEWOODY'S fur hats? He was an honest workman, in every sense of the word. He never spared material. The bodies were strongly made, the fur put on most lavishly. Indeed one of these honestly

made hats would last a lifetime, for fashions did not change them as now, demanding a new hat with every change. Mr. DEWOODY died March 11th, 1862, aged seventy-six years. ABRAHAM SELDERS had been the first stone-mason, and builded as good walls in his day as could be expected with cobble-stones and spawls. With the grand stones on which the hills rest, begging to be quarried, it was only in later days that they were used for building purposes. The early walls were all built of stones that could be gathered up without quarrying.

LUPHER did the blacksmithing. SERVICE made saddles and bridles. JAMES ADAMS had a pottery down in the neighborhood of the old Forts. The ware was probably more useful than ornamental, but it answered a good purpose. He was followed in this line by ABRAHAM KENNEDY. NATHANIEL CARY was, in later days, the tailor. The SMITHS, JOHN and ISAAC, were watermen and river pilots, as was also that wonderful drummer, JAMES BROWN. JOHN SINGLETON was the brickmaker. ELIHU BUTLER repaired the watches, and at times practiced dentistry. J. R. SAGE was the housebuilder. Mr. HOUSER carried the mail to Warren and back. JOHN RIDGWAY was the boat-builder. And so every man found his mission, and there was plenty of work for all who wished to be employed.

The first lawyer that settled in Franklin was DAVID IRVINE.—He came in 1806, and died in 1827. He was the son-in-law of Judge HERRON, and his widow is still living in Erie, at the age of eighty-seven years. After him were JOHN J. PEARSON, JOHN GALBRAITH, JAMES THOMPSON, JAMES ROSS SNOWDEN, S. P. JOHNSTON, JOHN W. HOWE, ALEXANDER MCCALMONT, WILLIAM STEWART, and others.

The first physicians were SMITH, BASCOM, GILFILLAN, ESPY, WOOD, FAULKNER, SNOWDEN, GILLETT, and others. For many years previous to their coming, physicians came from Meadville to visit the sick.

The first church in town, regularly organized, was the Presbyterian, in 1817. The first pastor was THOMAS ANDERSON, from 1826 to 1837. The second, CYRUS DICKSON, D.D., from 1840 to 1848.—The Methodist church was organized at an early date. The first church edifice was the Presbyterian, in 1833, with a new one in 1867. The first Methodist church was built in 1835, with a new one in 1867.—Other churches have followed in order.

In 1823, there were three hotels in the town. GEORGE POWERS, the old pioneer, had a hotel on Otter street, in the old stone building that has recently been torn down. GEORGE MCCLELLAND had one on the site now occupied by the United States, and Colonel JAMES KINNEAR was occupying the old brick, still standing on the corner of

Liberty and West Park. The Kinnear House was a famous hotel in its day. Travelers throughout the country considered it a luxury to stop there. The Colonel was so genial and kind, his table so home-like and quiet, that it seemed more like visiting at the house than receiving public entertainment. But withal, the house was somewhat exclusive. There was a majesty and a precision, with all its neatness and kindness, that showed there was a choice in the guests. Old GEORGE, the hostler, perhaps illustrated the idea in a conversation with one of the traveling guests: "If a man comes along with a buggy and sleek horse, with a silk hat and gloves, he can stop, sir. But, if he comes with a wagon, or on foot, with a straw hat and coat off, he can't stop, sir; he must go on farther, sir." RENO, father of General RENO, kept a hotel afterwards, on the corner of Otter and Thirteenth streets. JEREMIAH CLANCY accommodated the public on the corner of Elk and Thirteenth. EDWARD PEARCE had a hotel on the west side of the lower French Creek bridge, then a ferry. Later, LUKE TURNER was a prominent hotel man, as was also LUCIUS PIKE. There was a famous hotel too, on Liberty street, on the site of MARTIN & EPLEY'S drug store. HULINGS, JOHN EVANS, and ARTHUR ROBISON, kept there. But few of these landmarks now remain. They have yielded to the pressure of time.

There are at the present time eleven church organizations in the city: Presbyterian, Methodist Episcopal, Lutheran, Wesleyan, United Presbyterian, Protestant Episcopal, Roman Catholic, Israelitish Synagogue, Evangelical, Methodist Episcopal, colored; and Baptist. All of these have commodious houses of worship that are a credit to the community and a comfort to the worshippers.

There are two fine Public School buildings, with arrangements made for two more, for the accommodation of the eleven hundred entitled to the benefit of public schools. The number of public schools is seventeen, with a general Superintendent. In addition to these, there are about a half dozen private schools, supported by individual enterprise. In addition to the secular schools, nearly all the churches have Sabbath schools for the instruction of children and youth.

The Allegheny and French Creek were anciently crossed by ferry-boats. The Allegheny had a ferry some sixty rods below the present bridge. French Creek had two ferries. The lower one was at the foot of South Park street, the upper one at the foot of West Park. The bride across the Allegheny was always a toll bridge. The first structure was covered. This was destroyed by a burning oil boat floating down from Oil City. The second was a suspension wire bridge. This was destroyed in December, 1870, by a burning house, at the western approach, burning off the cables. The present struc-

ture was completed the next year. The first bridge across French Creek was built in 1819 or 1820, by a company, assisted by the State. It was a toll bridge for a number of years. The present iron bridge was erected by the county. The lower bridge was also built by the county. The first structure was covered, and was carried away by the terrible flood of March 17th, 1865. It was succeeded by another structure, partly iron. This, too, was carried away in the breaking up of the ice in the creek. The present substantial iron bridge was built a few years ago, and will probably be permanent, as it is elevated above the water, and above the level of former works that preceded it.

As Franklin has always manifested more or less ambition, it was incorporated as a Borough in 1829. WILLIAM CONNELY was the first Burgess. Later, its citizens applied for a City charter. This was granted by an act of Assembly in 1868. T. A. DODD was the first Mayor, under this charter.

The public improvements of the city are worthy of commendation. A Water Company was organized in 1864, that supplies the citizens with pure spring water, drawn from the neighboring hills. The reservoirs have a sufficient head to carry the water to the highest rooms in the city. In 1870, a Gas Company was organized, that furnishes a very good quality of gas; but the competition is difficult with our native oil at ten cents per gallon.

Perhaps no town of its size in the whole country is so well supplied with good, permanent, sidewalks as Franklin. The flags are found in our hills, and stones of almost any size can be obtained.—Every prominent street has been supplied with these flags, until miles of the finest walks are found that will not soon need to be renewed. Many of these flags bear marks of a very high antiquity. Rain pats and ripple marks are found on the smooth face of many hoary slabs, bearing the record of the ages, and noting the changes that they bring.

Franklin has not suffered much from fire. Anciently the citizens had a good faculty of turning out in cases of alarm. Men and women, and boys, forming lines, passed water in buckets to extinguish fires. Some twenty years ago the postoffice was burned. The most serious fire in its history occurred on February 1st, 1866. It commenced in a suspicious house on Liberty street, just above the corner of Thirteenth; swept down to Thirteenth and along that street to Elk; then down Liberty, on the north side, to what is now Centre Block, where it was stayed. A few years afterwards the Exchange Hotel was burned, but the fire extended no further. A very efficient force of fire companies has been in organization for a number of years. This, with the fire police, has rendered very efficient and successful service during the progress of some recent fires.

According to the census of 1850, the population of the town was 933. At that time among the professional men were Drs. N. D. SNOWDEN and B. GILLETT, as physicians. The lawyers were ALEXANDER MCCALMONT, JOHN W. HOWE, JAMES S. MYERS, N. R. BUSHNELL, R. S. MCCORMICK, JAMES K. KERR, E. C. WILSON and W. H. LAMBERTON. ADAM WEBBER was postmaster. The merchants were ROBERT LAMBERTON, JAMES G. LAMBERTON, MYRON PARK, WILLIAM RAYMOND, JOSIAH ADAMS, S. L. ULMAN, JAMES BLEAKLEY, SAMUEL BAILEY, JOHN H. SHANNON, and NICKLIN & BRYDEN.—ANDREW BOWMAN was tanner and shoemaker; LEVI DODD was cabinet maker; I. B. ROWE was housebuilder; C. W. MACKEY was wagonmaker; GEORGE GRISHABBER was blacksmith; ANDREW DEWOODY was hatter, and THOMAS MOORE was saddler. There were but two churches then, Presbyterian, and Methodist. S. J. M. EATON was pastor of the former, and MOSES HILL of the latter. There were two newspapers, *The Advocate and Journal*, edited by E. S. DURBAN, and *The Venango Spectator*, edited by A. P. WHITAKER. This was the position of the town a little after the first half century of its life had closed.

OIL CITY,

although a modern town on the score of years, has yet attained to great importance and prosperity. It has had a rapid, healthy and promising growth. There are many elements in the spendid prosperity that has attended it. Its location is much in its favor. It is on the river and at the mouth of Oil Creek, where the first important developments were made. It is the most important railroad centre in the entire oil region. In addition to these advantages it was early settled by a class of energetic, persevering business men, who have brought both energy and capital to the building up of its interests. From its position and the character of its people, it must always be an important shipping point; and the history of the past is a guaranty of the success of the future.

The town is situated on both sides of the Allegheny River and at the same time includes the territory above and below the mouth of Oil Creek. The territory on the western side of the creek was settled original by FRANCIS HOLLIDAY. By him it was purchased from the State in 1803. It was for a long time his home and that of his family. About thirty years ago it came into the hands of Dr. JOHN NEVINS. Here he lived, practiced medicine, hunted foxes, and enjoyed himself socially, without any dream of the wealth and importance that should attach to his humble home at the base of the cliff. It next passed into the hands of PLUMER and DRUM, and was finally sold to the Michigan Rock Oil Company. By them the ground was laid out in lots, and buildings began to be erected.—

This was about the year 1859. Previous to this time, there were but three or four houses on this side of the Creek. There was the old Moran House. It had been a famous resort for lumbermen in its day. In the Spring and Fall, and during "June freshes," as they were called, lumbermen had thronged around it like bees. Long lines of rafts were to be seen moored to the bank of the River, in the eddy, during the times of high water, and on a small scale something of the excitement of the oil business was witnessed around it. Often rafts were moored for the distance of a mile above and below the mouth of the Creek. The sound of the fiddle and the loud tramp of heavy boots were heard far into the night, making a scene of great activity and excitement. There was also the Red Lion Hotel nearer the mouth of the Creek, that had been standing a shorter length of time, but was also a prominent point with the lumbermen. During the season of low water the place was quiet and hardly a ripple moved to disturb its tranquility.

In 1852, JOHN P. HOPEWELL established a store not far below the mouth of the Creek, that seemed a kind of prophecy of the coming tide of business.

Crossing to the east, or upper side of the Creek, we find, at the beginning of the century the land in the possession of CORNPLANTER, the Chief of the Senecas. The Government, in recognition of his services during the Revolutionary War, had assigned him certain tracts of land, amongst others, three hundred acres at the mouth of Oil Creek, extending up the flat on the upper side. This land had been surveyed by Colonel DALE, Deputy Surveyor, and a deed made out for the same. The possession of this deed, and the actual corners and "blazes" of the Surveyor did much to reconcile the old warrior to the settlement of the country by the white people.

The old Chief held this land for many years. He visited it frequently; his people came to gather oil from its springs, and to hunt and fish in its neighborhood. By him it was at last sold, through the agency of WILLIAM CONNELY, and by some legal process came into the hands of MATTHIAS STOCKBERGER and RICHARD NOYES, for a very moderate price. It afterwards became the property of WILLIAM BELL. Afterwards it came into the possession of GRAFF, HASSON & CO. A warehouse and steamboat landing were prepared. A blast furnace and mills were erected, propelled by water power taken from the Creek. A foundry was connected with the furnace. Occasionally an old stove is found still, throughout the country, bearing the inscription, "Oil Creek Furnace." These works were carried on for a time by the CRARYS. Of course, there was a store connected with them, as that seemed an absolute necessity in all furnace operations.

But a change came. The furnace blew its last blast; the mill

wheel made its last revolution: the warehouse fell into dilapidation; the weeds grew rankly around the store door: there was no sign of life, save that the dwelling house of the concern was still occupied. This was the state of the case in 1850. Up to 1859, when the first oil well was struck, there were no signs of prosperity or enterprise. In that year there were not more than half a dozen families in all the region covered by the entire active city of the present. In the year 1864, this land was purchased by the Petroleum Farms Association, and by them laid out in lots.

During the years 1860 and 1861, the town began to grow and put on the air of business. On the west side of the Creek the first building erected was the Pipe and Brass Fitting Shop of CHARLES ROBSON. This was followed by the store-rooms of MCFARLAND Brothers, of Meadville, and REYNOLDS Brothers, of Clarion county. After this the growth of the town was rapid and everything was pushed with energy and success. It was incorporated as a Borough in 1862. The first Burgess was WILLIAM HASSON.

In the meantime a settlement had commenced on the south side of the River. The first well was struck there in April, 1861, on the DOWNING farm, by PHILLIPS & VANAUSDALL. This produced some thirty-five barrels per day, and the oil was sold at sixty-four cents per gallon. In 1863, WILLIAM L. LAY purchased the BASTIAN farm and laid out a town called Laytonia. Subsequently, JAMES BLEAKLEY, of Franklin, purchased the DOWNING farm adjoining, on the upper side of Laytonia, and laid out a town called Imperial City.— These two towns were consolidated by an order of Court in 1866, forming a Borough, with the name of Venango City. The new Borough was favorably located on gently rising ground, and improved rapidly. A bridge connecting it with Oil City gave easy access, and it became a favorite place of residence to many persons in business in Oil City.

In 1863, Cottage Hill was purchased by J. H. MARSTON and CHARLES HAINES, and laid out in lots. This addition leads up the hill side and covers the crest of the hill that overlooks the earlier part of the town and river.

Oil City has not been without its misfortunes. The great flood of 1865 swept away a large portion of the eastern side. It was rebuilt, and in 1866 swept away again by fire. It has again been rebuilt in a more substantial manner. The western side of the Creek has also been devastated by fire. This portion of the city has not been fully rebuilt.

By act of Assembly of March 1, 1871, Oil City and Venango City were consolidated, with the name of the former, and a City charter. The first Mayor was WILLIAM M. WILLIAMS.

At first the buildings were rather frail in their character. Business could not wait for stone foundations and brick walls. Of late years the building has been of a substantial character. Many fine brick blocks have taken the places of the early wooden buildings. The Collins House is one of the finest hotel buildings in the State.

The City is will supplied with churches. The principal denominations in the country are represented.

As a Railroad centre it has peculiar advantages. The Franklin Branch of the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad, the Allegheny Valley, the Jamestown and Franklin, and Oil Creek and Allegheny, with the River Division of the latter, all terminate there. The Water and Gas Companies add to the comfort and safety of the city.

Oil Creek is spanned by a fine iron bridge, and arrangements are making for a second bridge across the Allegheny. There are a number of producing wells within the City limits, with a very large amount of tankage for the storage of oil. An Oil Exchange is located on one of the principal streets, with its excitements and its incentives to business.

Oil City must always maintain its ascendency as the principal market in the oil region, and the healthfulness and salubrity of the climate make it attractive to those engaged in its business.

ROUSEVILLE.

This was at one time a great shipping point for oil. It is on Oil Creek, about three miles above Oil City and at the mouth of Cherry Run. It was near this that the great conflagration took place in April, 1861, that resulted in the death of eighteen men, and the severe burning of twenty others. Amongst those who died was H. R. ROUSE, after whom the town was named. A vein of gas had been struck that took fire from the engine, throwing oil and fire around to the distance of a number of rods.

Rouseville has had a large degree of prosperity, but of late years has declined with the decline of business in the oil valley.—There is considerable oil still produced in the vicinity, and a revival of prices would bring a revival of business. It is well supplied with churches.

PETROLEUM CENTRE.

This was a wonderful town in its day. It was remarkable for its business, for the energy and push of its business men, and for the wickedness of some of its institutions. Business and profligacy jostled each other. Yet withal, the institutions of morality and religion kept on the even course of their way. They were the salt that prevented the mass from corruption and death. The town is in the Oil Creek valley, midway between Oil City and Titusville. It is in the midst of the greatest development of oil in all the country fifteen

years ago. It attained at that time to a population of about twenty-five hundred. But, with the going down of the oil production, the place has declined. It was never incorporated, and although laid out in lots, the lots were simply leased.

PLEASANTVILLE

is located in the northern part of the county, having a delightful situation and pleasant surroundings. It was settled in 1820 by AARON BENEDICT. In 1833, JOHN BROWN came and made his home and place of business there. In 1849, it was incorporated as a Borough, having about two hundred and fifty inhabitants. In modern times it had as exciting a history as almost any of the oil towns. It began to be active as an oil town in 1868, when it seemed as though it was located over the great oil basin of the country. At one time there were over two hundred wells producing a daily aggregate of some two thousand barrels. The forest of derricks covering the hill indicated the confidence of the people in the territory. There are several churches there, with three large brick blocks of buildings, and two banks. Although the oil business has failed largely, it is still a place of importance.

PITHOLE CITY.

This place is in the northeastern part of the county, and has a most remarkable history. No town in the gold regions of the far west sprang up with greater rapidity, or declined more rapidly than this. Developments commenced there in 1865. There was but a single farm house there on the first of May of that year. By the close of September, a period of five months, it had attained to a population of fifteen thousand. It had its hotels, churches, theaters, opera houses, and all the machinery, good and evil, that pertains to a large city. It was an oil town exclusively. The "United States" and "General Grant" wells gave the impetus to the wild speculations that went forward until the largest sales of real estate were made there that have ever been known in the history of the oil business.—But business declined. The oil was confined to a small basin and was soon exhausted. The town was deserted. Buildings that had been erected at vast expense were removed to Pleasantville, to Oil City, to Franklin; and the great city has become but an obscure village with no traces of its former glory.

PLUMER

is at the head of Cherry Run. The Plumer House was once a point on the Warren and Franklin turnpike. It is about eight miles above Oil City. It became prominent during the oil times. The Humboldt Refinery was located there. With other towns, it has suffered with the decline of the oil business in its neighborhood.

OLEOPOLIS.

This town is at the mouth of Pithole Creek, on the Allegheny. At one time a Railroad extended from this place to Pithole City.—The road has been taken up and the once promising city has gone back to the quiet days of old.

SIVERLEYVILLE

is two miles above Oil City, on the northern bank of the Allegheny. The place was for a long time the property of PHILIP SIVERLEY. A very large Refinery is located there. It is known as the Standard Oil Company, and is doing a flourishing business.

RENO

is situated on the northern bank of the Allegheny, some four miles above Franklin. The site was first settled by a man named CLIFFORD, early in the present century. After him BOWLES was in possession. Of late years it was known as the SHAFFER and HOWE farms. In 1863, it was purchased by the Reno Oil Company, and a town laid out. It has produced a large quantity of oil within its limits. At one time the Reno and Pithole Railroad extended as far as Rouseville, across the hills. It has now been discontinued.

EMLENTON

is the third town in the county in importance. It is on the Allegheny, near the southern boundary of the county. The Allegheny Valley Railroad passes through it. JOSEPH M. FOX was one of the original proprietors of the territory on which it was built. His wife's maiden name was HANNAH EMLEN. From her the town derives its name. JOHN KERR and JOHN COCHRAN were the first settlers.—ANDREW MCCASLIN opened a store in 1820. He was followed by P. G. HOLLISTER, in the same business. After them came KEATING, CARNES, and others. There are several churches in the place. Its business facilities are a flour mill, foundry, planing mill and bank.—The Tableaux Academy is a fine brick building, a matter of private enterprise.

COOPERSTOWN

is situated on Sugar Creek, nine miles from Franklin. It was located on lands belonging to WILLIAM COOPER, about the year 1827. A fine woolen factory has long been in operation there; also, flour and saw mills. It has a Methodist and Presbyterian church, and a thriving trade.

WALLACEVILLE.

JOHN RODGERS built mills here in 1840. Three years afterwards the property was purchased by W. W. WALLACE, of Pittsburgh.—The town was named after him. It is in Plum township, in the midst of a good farming region.

CHAPMANVILLE

is on the Meadville and Titusville road, in the extreme northwestern portion of the county. It has the usual buildings pertaining to small villages. The postoffice is called Plum.

UTICA

is situated on French Creek and the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad, about eight miles from Franklin. The land originally belonged to JAMES ADAMS, and was sold by him to A. W. RAYMOND, in 1830, and the town laid out in 1832–3. It is called after Utica in the State of New York. Mills and stores form the centre around which the village has grown. It has two churches and an academy.

RAYMILTON

is on Sandy Creek, on the line of the Jamestown and Franklin Railroad. A. W. RAYMOND is the proprietor. He commenced here in 1844, by erecting a blast furnace, flour and saw-mills. It is now a grand shipping point for oil. A pipe line from Butler county brings a large amount of oil here for shipment. It has an iron tankage of some two hundred thousand barrels. It is about ten miles from Franklin.

WATERLOO

is six miles from Franklin, on Sandy Creek and the Jamestown and Franklin Railroad. The property was owned by AARON MCKISSICK, who laid out the town in 1839. It has two churches, an academy, mills, store, and barrel factory. The name of the post office is Polk.

DEMPSEYTOWN

is in Oakland township, and was laid out on land of LAWRENCE DEMPSEY, from whom it takes its name. Mr. DEMPSEY was one of the first settlers in the township. The village has gradually grown up, as the wants of the community have called for improvements. It has its store, hotel, mechanics' shops, and churches.

SUNVILLE

is in Plum township. It was laid out many years ago. W. W. DAVIDSON had the first store there. It has churches and an academy.

CHERRYTREE.

This village is located near the point where WILLIAM REYNOLDS encamped in 1797, as he came here to hew out a home for himself and family amid these grand old woods. Around a store and blacksmith shop a small village gradually crystalized, and the old farmers, weary of their conflict with years of toil came to spend the remainder of their days. It is in Cherrytree township, some three miles from Petroleum Centre.

MECHANICSVILLE

is in Irwin township, on the Franklin and Harrisville road. It was

laid out in 1851. Amongst the first settlers were JOHN BRYAN, CONRAD SHAWGA, WILLIAM ROSS, DANIEL WOODLING, and J. F. BILLINGSLEY. The postoffice is called Wesley.

SALINA

is in Cranberry township, on the Clarion pike, and about seven miles from Franklin. There was a hotel there, then a blacksmith shop, then a store. These are the elements of a village. It began to assume this form about 1855. It has a Baptist church. The oil business has added greatly to its prosperity and growth.

SALEM

is a modern village, situated on the road from Salina to Oil City. It is in Cranberry township, and began to be called a village in 1865. The postoffice is called Seneca.

FREEDOM

is in Rockland township, and was founded by JOSHUA DAVIS, one of the Associate Judges of the county. It is a small place, the site of the Rockland Presbyterian church.

NICKLEVILLE

is in Richland township. It was founded by WILLIAM NICKLE, and has the usual conveniences of country villages—stores, shops, and churches, with a postoffice.

CLINTONVILLE

is in Clinton township, and dates back to about 1833. The initial movement was a store opened by WILLIAM CROSS and JAMES PERRY. There were but two houses in the place at that time. In the neighborhood, WILLIAM CROSS erected a steam flour mill on Scrubgrass Creek. This was in 1837. Three years afterwards, WILLIAM and W. C. CROSS built a blast furnace, foundry, woolen mill, saw-mill, tannery and furniture shop. ROBERT CROSS, one of the Associate Judges of the county, had a store in Clintonville for forty years. He died in June, 1874, in the sixty-third year of his age. WILLIAM CROSS, the pioneer of the village, died November 3, 1861, in the seventy-sixth year of his age.

KENNERDELL.

At this place, two miles from Scrubgrass Station on the Allegheny River, considerable manufacturing is carried on. The first machinery was set up here by DAVID PHIPPS. Flour and saw-mills, a woolen factory and oil mill, were a great convenience to the people. The power is from Scrubgrass Creek. It is now supplemented by steam, in the hands of Mr. KENNERDELL. The chief business now is the manufacture of woolen goods. Fabrics from common flannels up to fine blankets and cloths are made here equal to the best in the country. With good machinery and a practical knowledge of the business, these works have been very prosperous. The scenery

along Scrubgrass Creek in the neighborhood is wild, and the country rough, but up on the height of land, the country is fine and well adapted to agriculture.

There are a number of other small towns in various parts of the county, as Hannaville, in Canal township; Springville, in Sandy-creek; President, in President; that have their importance, but have not attained to general notice. President was the site of the furnace of the same name, thirty years ago. The proprietor was RALPH CLAPP. There is now a fine hotel, store and postoffice there, that make it the centre of influence for the township. Eagle Rock and Henryville are in the same township—the latter at Henry's Bend.—Triumph is on Oil Creek. two miles above Petroleum Centre; Shamburg is between Petroleum Centre and Pleasantville. It is the site of extensive oil operations under the superintendence of Dr. SHAMBURG. Another point in this neighborhood is called Red Hot. The oil business was exceedingly active at this place for a time. That may account for the name. Kane City is in the same neighborhood. Bredinsburg is in Cranberry township, on the State road, some five miles from Franklin. The oil business was very promising there for a time, and the town grew rapidly. But the development did not continue long, and the town is in the sear and yellow leaf. It has but shared the fate of other oil towns that made greater pretensions and met with less success. Foster and Scrubgrass are stations on the Allegheny Valley Railroad. The latter is about sixteen miles below Franklin, and has considerable importance as being closely connected with a productive oil territory. There is a wire ferry there that connects with the road to Kennerdell and Clintonville. There are other points that are coming into prominence, but time fails us to notice them particularly.

We have thus, in brief speech, reviewed the history of the century as it relates to Venango county. We have found progress and improvement amongst all the decades that make up the rounded century. In hardship and in success, in peace and in war, in joy and in sorrow, this rocky, hilly county has made constant advances and has helped on the grand work of making our common country what it is to-day; a nation prosperous and free; a home for the immigrants of all the lands on the face of the earth. May this county, with other counties in the State, and other States in the Union, and still other States yet to be, ever keep in the way of progress, until this nation shall become great in law, in justice, in truth and righteousness; until this glorious Flag of Stars shall be to all nations the symbol of freedom, of civil and religious liberty, and the grand representative of national greatness in all the earth!

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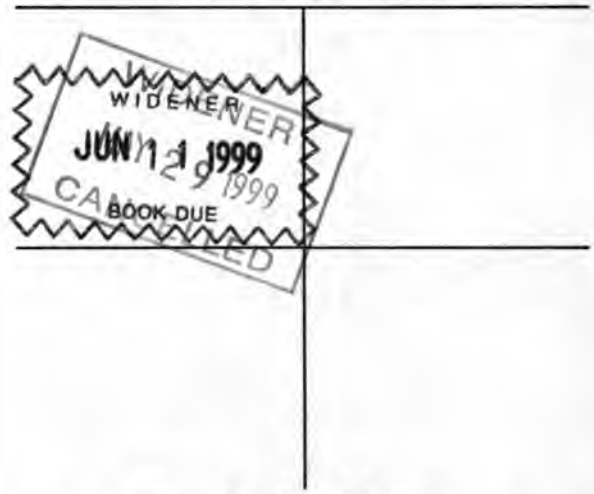

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